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THE COST OF LIVING IN THE UNITED STATES, 1914–1927

STUDIES OF THE COST OF LIVING

PUBLISHED BY THE

NATIONAL INDUSTRIAL CONFERENCE BOARD, INC.

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THE COST OF LIVING IN THE UNITED STATES
1914–1927

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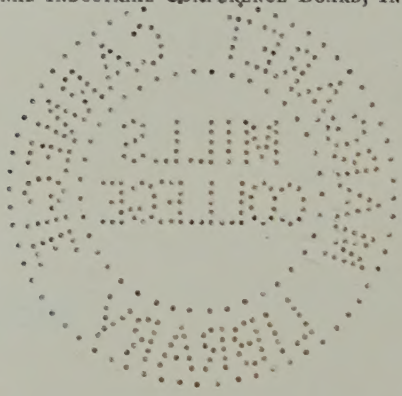

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FOREWORD

THE rapid rise of prices which followed the outbreak of the World War stimulated a great deal of interest both in this country and abroad in changes in the cost of living. Realizing the importance of this subject, the National Industrial Conference Board from the outset devoted its attention to cost of living studies.

This book on "The Cost of Living in the United States, 1914–1927" is the latest issue of a series of publications in which the results of the Conference Board's inquiries in this field are set forth. The report summarizes in one volume the results of the investigations of the Board since 1914, with particular emphasis upon the monthly changes in the cost of living from November, 1925 to January, 1928.

The Board's earlier volume, entitled "The Cost of Living in the United States, 1914–1926," includes a full description and critical analysis of index numbers of the cost of living in this country, while the volume on "The Cost of Living in Foreign Countries" (1927) gives a description of the indexes of the cost of living in all foreign countries which are known to conduct such investigations. These publications of the National Industrial Conference Board, therefore, contain a review of the methods and findings of all important systematic efforts to measure changes in the cost of living.

Other aspects of the cost of living have also received attention in the publications of the Conference Board. In 1921, the Board issued a comprehensive study of the "Family Budgets of American Wage Earners," in which is assembled and critically reviewed all the existing information on that subject. At various times, the Board made twelve special studies of the cost of living in different localities, the most conspicuous of which is that issued in 1927 on "The Cost of Living in New York City." The most recent investigation in this field is "The Cost of Living in Twelve Industrial Cities" (1928).

Taken together, the several publications of the National Industrial Conference Board on the cost of living form an authoritative source of information on this subject in all its varied aspects.

This volume is the result of an investigation conducted by Mr. Roland P. Falkner and assistants, of the Conference Board's Research Staff, under the supervision of the Staff Economic Council.

In the preparation of its studies the National Industrial Conference Board avails itself of the experience and judgment of the business executives who compose its membership, and of recognized authorities in special fields, in addition to the scientific knowledge and equipment of its Research Staff. The publications of the Board thus finally represent the result of scientific investigation and broad business experience, and the conclusions expressed therein are those of the Conference Board as a body.

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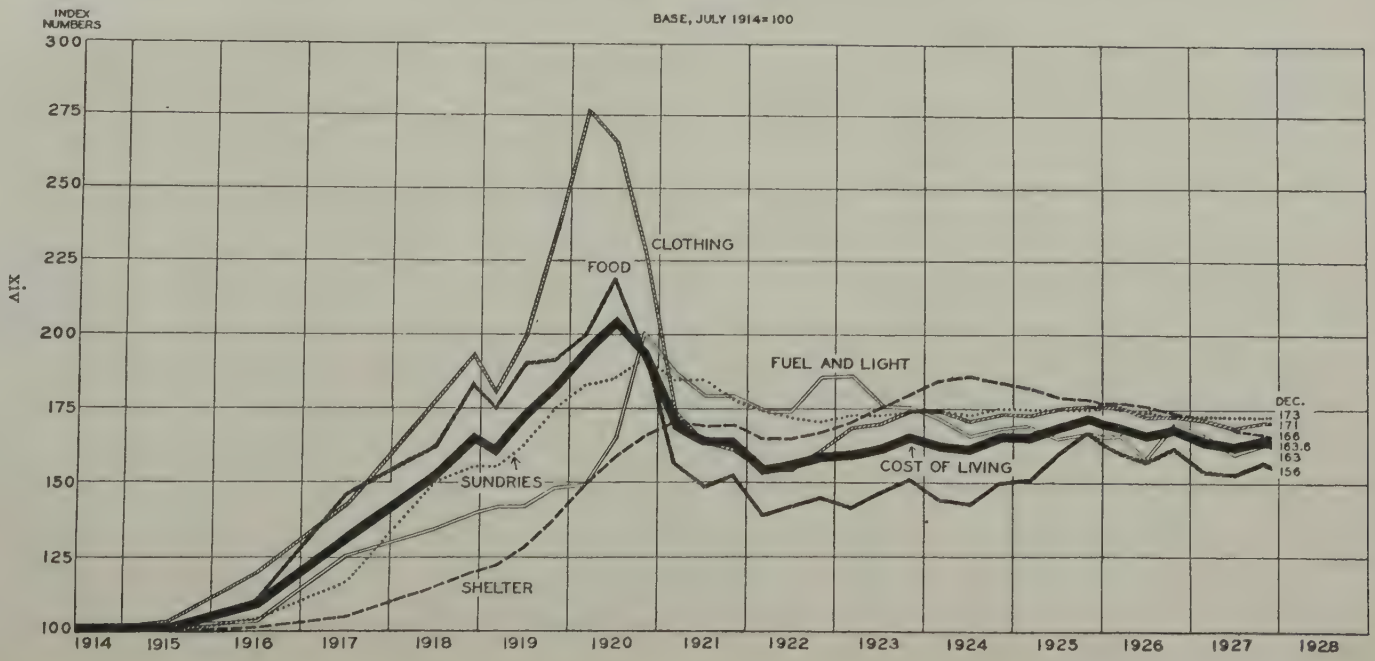
CHART 1: INDEX NUMBERS OF THE COST OF LIVING IN THE UNITED STATES, JULY, 1914 TO DECEMBER, 1927



THE COST OF LIVING IN THE UNITED STATES

INTRODUCTION

DURING the past few years, changes in the cost of living have been matters of vital interest, not only to all consumers and particularly to the wage-earning classes, but also to employers in all fields, whether in business pursuits, in educational institutions or in public service generally. The consumer has had the problem of adjusting his manner of living to his income, or his income to his manner of living; the employer has had to make adjustments in his wage and salary payments and to find the resources with which to do so.

Since 1897, the general trend of prices has been upward, and even before the outbreak of the World War complaint of the high cost of living was general. The situation, however, was not acute and the dissatisfaction with it was comparatively feeble. The rapid changes of prices which were induced by the war and the subsequent economic readjustments caused deep-seated economic distress which transformed the question of the cost of living from one of largely academic interest to a practical problem of daily life for the individual and one of national welfare for all countries.

From these conditions arose much more comprehensive and systematic efforts to measure the changes in the cost of living than had been made before that time. The necessary elements for such a measurement are (1) more or less accurate information on what people buy to satisfy the daily needs of subsistence and (2) accurate information with regard to the prices which consumers must pay for the articles and services which enter into the cost of living. In this and other countries, many investigations have been made from time to time of the cost of living among industrial wage earners. The purpose of these investigations was generally descriptive

and sociological, that is, to portray actual conditions of life among distinct groups of wage earners.[1] Before 1914, considerable material had been gathered regarding family expenditures and their distribution. There was less information available regarding retail prices. Such data as were available in regard to retail prices had not, as a rule, been gathered with a view to utilizing them to portray changes in the cost of living. In other words, the articles priced did not include all those which played some rôle in the cost of living and those which were priced were selected rather because information regarding them was easily accessible than because they had a significant relation to the aggregate cost of living.

Information in regard to prices was for the most part confined to wholesale prices. Several index numbers of prices compiled by private persons were in existence before 1914. An official index of wholesale prices based in large part upon the investigations of the Aldrich Committee for the period 1840 to 1891 had been established in 1900 by the United States Bureau of Labor Statistics. But so far as questions of the cost of living were studied in the period prior to 1914, it was assumed that retail prices reflected the changes of wholesale prices and that the latter were therefore a fair indication of changes taking place in the cost of living. It was not until violent changes in price took place after the outbreak of the war that attention was forcibly called to the fact that changes in retail prices lagged behind those in wholesale prices and that the true measure of changes in the cost of living was to be found in prices at retail rather than in prices in the wholesale market. Before 1914, there was no systematic and continuous study of retail prices for the purpose of establishing a continuous price index based upon a balanced family budget and with retail prices weighted according to consumption.[2]

Economists have argued that there is no particular virtue

[1] The (Aldrich) Report on Retail Prices and Wages, No. 986 of the 52nd Congress, First Session, Part 1, p. LIII, gives a statement of twelve investigations of this nature made in the United States between 1875 and 1892.

[2] For the brief period June, 1889 to September, 1891, the statistical procedure here indicated was used in the report on retail prices and wages before referred to. So far as known, this was the first time that a group of retail prices were collected with special reference to family expenditure and that the prices were combined into an index with weights based on the household budget. The index, designed to meet a special need, was not continued.

in a high level of prices or in a low level of prices and have insisted that all those adjustments which cause a disturbance in the even flow of economic life arise from changes upward or downward in the level of prices. Such disturbances would obviously be reduced to a minimum if all prices, meaning thereby the rates at which all services, for example, labor, and all property or commodities are exchanged, changed simultaneously and in the same degree. That, however, is a situation which never occurs. The change from one price level to another is not uniform either in time or degree for all groups of articles or services. Prices at wholesale move upward or downward before there is a corresponding change in the retail prices of the same commodities. When prices rise, wages do not follow suit, at least until after a certain lapse of time; when prices fall, wages do not always fall with them. Compared with other prices, rents move slowly. In a general advance, they are the last to start, and when the advance has been checked elsewhere, the momentum which rents have acquired may keep them rising for a time when other prices are stationary or declining. Changes in prices within a general group extend only gradually from one class of commodities to another. Food changes in price more frequently than clothing and other commodities bought at retail for family use. Nor do the prices paid for services, in other words, wages and salaries, necessarily advance or decline at an even pace. Salaries may increase more rapidly than wages under certain circumstances; under other conditions wages may outstrip salaries. It sometimes, though rarely, happens that the different groups of prices or different items within the groups move in opposite directions. The procession usually moves in one direction or the other, but the members may be early or late in joining it and they often fail to keep step. This lack of a complete adjustment of the various parts of our economic machinery passes comparatively unnoticed in periods when the changes that occur in our economic life are slow and gradual. Given, however, such convulsive movements in the realm of business and finance as characterized the war period, the disturbance of accustomed relations for the time being brings difficulty and even distress.

The rapid rise of prices after 1914 brought with it a considerable increase in the cost of living. It was obvious that at the new prices of commodities and prevailing levels of wages the former manner of living could not be maintained and there thus resulted demands for wage increases which often led to disagreement between wage earners and their employers. The latter were, as a rule, willing to grant, whenever possible, such an increase of wages as would compensate the worker for the heightened cost of living. But disputes were inevitable as to how far the cost of living had actually advanced. A recourse to the statistics of wholesale prices failed to give satisfactory answers, nor was either side content to rest its case upon the available statistics of retail prices which related to food only. As time went on, it became increasingly evident that an improved measure of the cost of living was necessary. It seemed clear that such a measure should be based entirely upon retail rather than wholesale prices and that it should include not only food, but as far as possible all the other things, such as rent, fuel, light, clothing and miscellaneous articles and services, the cost of which must be borne by the income of the wage earner's family.

The task of establishing a satisfactory index of changes in the cost of living is by no means a simple one. It is possible that the very complexity of the problem deterred men from making the attempt until an urgent necessity rendered it indispensable.[1] A study of the procedure followed in establishing an index number, even for small countries, with the most restricted list of articles priced, will show how the unavoidable detail is large in amount and minute and difficult in character.[2] For a nation as large in its territory and in its population as the United States, the difficulties might well seem almost insuperable. The magnitude of the task might, however, postpone its undertaking, but could not be a permanent obstacle to its achievement.

"In 1917, in order to settle the constant disputes in the shipbuilding industry, the Shipbuilding Wage Adjustment Board of the Emergency Fleet Corporation entered into an

[1] See Royal Meeker, "The Possibility of Compiling a Cost of Living Index," *Monthly Labor Review*, March, 1919, p. 623.

[2] See National Industrial Conference Board, "The Cost of Living in Foreign Countries," New York, 1927.

agreement with the unions involved to readjust wages at intervals of not less than six months, if the majority of the craft or crafts at a plant requested it, on the basis that there had been a 'general and material increase in the cost of living.'[1] To determine if there had been such an increase and to ascertain its amount, the United States Bureau of Labor Statistics late in 1917[2] undertook investigations in the principal shipbuilding centers. Expenditures of families in 35 communities in 1917 or in 1918 were taken, and through prices collected from local merchants the increases in cost between 1914, 1915, 1916, 1917, and 1918 were computed. No attempt was made to establish desirable standards of living, but only to measure changes in the cost of maintaining the existing standard on the basis of changing rents and retail prices. These estimates for separate localities were not combined into an index for the country as a whole, but prices in 18 of them later served as the basis, through December, 1917, for the Bureau's present index of the cost of living in the United States.

"In the meanwhile, in June, 1918, the first estimate of changes in the cost of living made for the country as a whole, based on a complete budget with retail prices weighted according to consumption, was constructed by the National Industrial Conference Board. This was designed to meet the growing demand of industry in general and of the employer members of the then functioning National War Labor Board in particular for a more exact measure of cost of living changes than was afforded by index numbers of wholesale commodity prices or retail food prices. The report embodying the result of the Board's researches[3] brought together all existing material in the United States that would make possible a fairly exact measurement of the percentage by which the cost of living among workingmen's families had increased between July, 1914 and June, 1918, if they con-

[1] U. S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, *Monthly Review*, Washington, March, 1918, pp. 74–75.

[2] The report on Philadelphia was published in the March, 1918, *Monthly Review* of the U. S. Bureau of Labor Statistics; the report on New York, in April, 1918. Reports on subsequent places appeared in the June number of the *Monthly Review* and in the August, September and October numbers of the *Monthly Labor Review*.

[3] National Industrial Conference Board, Research Report No. 9, "Wartime Changes in the Cost of Living," Boston, August, 1918.

tinued to maintain the same standard of living. These data were fragmentary and scattered, but when supplemented by the results of questionnaires relating to the cost of clothing and fuel, and to house rents, they gave a very good general estimate of how much more it cost to live in 1918 than in 1914, at the same standard of living. In November, 1918, data were collected more systematically and the National Industrial Conference Board began to build up its files of retail merchants, real estate brokers and others closely in touch with current prices of the goods and services in daily use by families of small and moderate means. The co-operation of these correspondents in furnishing prices has made possible the continuation of the series. In March, 1919, estimates were interpolated for the years 1915, 1916 and 1917 for which extensive data do not exist, and from then on the series has been complete. Two reports were issued in 1918 and three in 1919. Beginning in January, 1920, prices were collected every month on a somewhat more limited basis.[1] Reports were published three times a year, through July, 1923.[2] Since then monthly statements[3] have been and are now being made public."[4]

For the State of Massachusetts a special Commission on the Necessaries of Life compiles a monthly index of the cost of living. Its first report, published in February, 1920, contained index numbers by months since 1910. Subsequent reports and special publications have carried the figures down to date. A full description of these index numbers is given in the volume of the National Industrial Conference Board on "The Cost of Living in the United States, 1914–1926."

[1] See National Industrial Conference Board, "The Cost of Living in the United States 1914–1926," pp. 58, 60,

[2] National Industrial Conference Board Research Reports Nos. 9, 14, 17, 19, 25, 28, 30, 33, 36, 39, 44, 49, 54, 57, 60, 63.

[3] These were cumulated through 1924 in a volume of "The Cost of Living in the United States." In 1926 a volume entitled "The Cost of Living in the United States, 1914–1926," cumulated all of the figures through 1925. Those for 1926 were published in a supplement on "The Cost of Living in the United States in 1926," which was also bound up with the volume already mentioned. During 1927 the current monthly figures were published in the *Conference Board Bulletin*. Beginning with January, 1928, they are being published in the *Service Letter on Industrial Relations*.

[4] National Industrial Conference Board, "Cost of Living in the United States 1914–1926," pp. 5–6.

Reference has already been made to the beginnings of the index number of the United States Bureau of Labor Statistics which since 1924 has been compiled in June and December of each year. So far as this index is concerned with the cost of food, the essential information with regard to its scope and construction will be given in the present volume. A complete description of the index number of the United States Bureau of Labor Statistics which gives details regarding the other elements of the cost of living as well as food, will be found in the volume of the National Industrial Conference Board on "The Cost of Living in the United States, 1914–1926."

"The main reason for the origin and continuation of all of these index numbers of the cost of living has been an agreement, or at least an existing practice, that wage adjustments should be made with price changes. This procedure was for the most part generally accepted during the period of rising prices up to 1920, although on various occasions in preceding years[1] attempts had been made, sometimes successfully, to establish wages on the basis of estimates of the actual cost of living based on a family budget. In wage arbitrations since 1920 the budget system of wage determination has come in for greater consideration and for a time the country was flooded with estimates of the minimum cost of living; budgets for families with incomes permitting more than a so-called minimum standard were rarely attempted.[2] An interesting recent development of the general interest in cost of living and family budgets has been the growing use of such data in connection with thrift plans, banking and instalment purchasing. This use involves practical methods of keeping accounts and budgeting expenditures so as to

[1] See National Industrial Conference Board, Research Report No. 41, *op. cit.*, Chapter VII.

[2] In addition to the budgets for clerical and professional workers referred to in the National Industrial Conference Board Research Report, No. 41, *op. cit.*, p. 3, the only significant recent budgets designed to cover the needs of a family in the higher income groups are those prepared in 1921 by the California Civil Service Commission, for a clerk's family and for the family of an executive. California, State Civil Service Commission, Cost of Living Survey, Report, Sacramento, 1923. An interesting recent study is by Clarence Vernon Noble, "The Cost of Living in a Small Factory Town," Ithaca, N. Y., September, 1924. The volume by J. B. Peixotto, "Getting and Spending at the Professional Standard," New York, 1927 relates to the faculty members of the University of California.

apportion the income in a rational manner; no attempt is made to estimate what the income should be."[1]

In the present volume, particular attention will be given to the changes which have taken place in the various aspects of the cost of living in the years 1926 and 1927. A full comprehension of these later changes requires as a background a knowledge of those which have taken place since 1914, and in the tables included in this volume the complete figures will be given from 1914 through 1927. In order that the significance of these changes may be fully understood, there is given in Chapter III as accurate a statement as possible of the procedure which has been followed by the National Industrial Conference Board in constructing its index on the cost of living and in Chapter IV the detailed results of its compilation and computation. Before entering, however, into these detailed results, it seems advisable to present some general considerations upon measuring the cost of living and to examine how far valid comparisons can be drawn between the cost of living in different places as well. A study of the comparative cost of food in different cities will therefore precede the treatment of the cost of living index numbers of the National Industrial Conference Board.

[1] The quotation is from "The Cost of Living in the United States, 1914–1926," *op. cit.*, p. 8. On the general subject see Ethelbert Stewart, "Use of Cost of Living Figures in Wage Adjustments," *Monthly Labor Review*, March, 1928, pp. 473–80.

CHAPTER I

MEASUREMENTS OF THE COST OF LIVING

GENERAL interest in the cost of living attaches itself to three main questions: (1) What does it cost to live; (2) What does it cost to live in one place compared with another; (3) What does it cost to live at one period compared with another. It is easier to state such questions than to answer them, for an examination of the problems of detail which enter into them will reveal many difficulties. Some of them a painstaking investigator is able to surmount; before others the most resourceful finds himself helpless.

What It Costs to Live

As soon as the question, "What does it cost to live?" is asked, other questions—"For whom? Where? When?"—immediately arise. In other words, the cost of living is conditioned upon the person, the locality, and the time. It depends upon the person, partly by reason of his individual characteristics, partly by reason of the social class to which he belongs. It depends upon the locality because differing geographic, economic and social conditions make different demands upon income and may also determine differences in the prices of commodities and services by which these demands are met. Finally, for any given person at any given place the cost of living will vary from one period to another as retail prices and ways of living change.

The usual unit in attempts to measure the cost of living is the family, though there has been a large number of special studies and estimates of the cost of living for the single woman living independently of any family group.[1] Less effort has been made to ascertain conditions for single and

[1] A discussion of efforts to ascertain the cost of living of such persons will be found in the volume of the National Industrial Conference Board, "Minimum Wage Legislation in Massachusetts," New York, 1927.

unattached men, presumably because it has been assumed that they are or should be entirely capable to fend for themselves.

Is the Cost of Living Measurable?

If, as stated, the cost of living is conditioned by so many different elements, to what degree can it be measured? Obviously for any given family group the expenditure can be determined with a high degree of exactness if appropriate records are kept. If a sufficient number of such records can be obtained for *similar* families, *similarly* situated, an average can be secured which may be regarded as fairly representative of the class to which it refers. Investigations of the cost of living are of necessity confined to certain classes of the community and do not refer to the population at large. This follows from the fact that only within certain more or less definite social classes can similar conditions be found.

The emphasis upon similar families and similar conditions is the essence of the problem of the cost of living. In general, families differ from one another in size, in income and in their habits of spending the family income within those limits in which some liberty of choice is possible. In a less degree this is true of families within the same social classes.

Income and the Cost of Living

Perhaps the fundamental class distinction is that of income; it is probably the most compelling circumstance in determining family expenditure, but it is by no means the only one.

So far as the total cost of living is concerned, any interest in it would usually be satisfied by statistics of family income. Families can not systematically and habitually spend more than their current income, though when there is accumulated wealth or where personal credit can be drawn upon, this may be done for a longer or shorter period. On the other hand, the tendency to live up to one's income is very strong. The desirability of saving a part of this income for future emergencies is probably known to all, but unfortunately is not practiced by all. Many are so placed that they have

slight opportunity for cultivating the saving habit, while others who by reason of a more ample income have the opportunity, do not always avail themselves of it. If we disregard the comparatively small and somewhat uncertain amounts set aside for savings, it is largely true for the community as a whole that incomes and the cost of living are almost one and the same thing. In this sense a high cost of living is that of persons with large incomes, and a low cost of living is that of persons with small incomes.

As ordinarily used, the phrase, high cost of living, has an entirely different meaning which will receive full consideration in the discussion of changes in the cost of living. That meaning, which may be briefly noted here, is that because of price changes an accustomed manner of living is more costly now than was formerly the case. For those dependent now as formerly upon a fixed money income and for those whose incomes have failed to keep pace with the rise in prices, the "high cost of living" is a grim reality. For the great majority whose economic situation has gradually adjusted itself to new conditions the "high cost of living" embodies a memory of past conditions, since the generation that has known low prices continues to look back to them wistfully. These considerations anticipate what will be said more in detail in considering the changes in the cost of living, but the digression has seemed necessary to avoid confusion in the terms employed.

In the sense in which the words are here used, a high or low cost of living means only a large or small expenditure of money for the satisfaction of family needs without relation to previous conditions affecting such expenditures. Studies of the cost of living from this point of view are not concerned with the amount of the cost, since that figure is one of the given elements in the case, but with the way in which the differences in the total cost are reflected in the different allowances made for the various component parts of that cost.

Distribution of Living Costs

Expenditures for the maintenance of the life of the family are, even where its scale of living is comparatively meagre, of many kinds and where the scale of living expands to

generous proportions are infinitely varied. In this maze of repeated and varied, often insignificant, outlays it would be impossible to secure any light, or any order, without some classification of these expenditures in major groups by kind or by purpose. The classification commonly adopted for studies of persons of small or moderate incomes is as follows:

Food
Housing
Fuel and Light
Clothing
Sundries

With exception of the last named, these divisions of expenditure seem to be sufficiently self-explanatory. Yet the moment the attempt is made to classify the expenditures of a considerable number of persons according to these definite groupings difficulties are encountered.

What a family spends for food is sufficiently clear and, with reasonably accurate records, it should not be difficult to determine the amount. For housing the situation is more complex. Many persons own their dwellings outright; others own them subject to mortgage; others rent them. Where rent is paid the matter is usually simple, but what shall be done where a room or rooms are sublet? Shall income from such a source be deducted from the cost of housing? These questions are not raised for the purpose of answering them categorically but merely to show the extent to which the investigator of family expenditure is dependent upon theory. More complex is the problem of determining the cost of housing when the dwelling is owned either free from incumbrance or subject to mortgage. The groups "housing" and "fuel and light" are closely related, sometimes they are inseparable. When they can be separated, the dwelling, its location and size, largely determine the outlay for fuel and for light. But sometimes they are not separable, as in the homes of the growing tribe of city apartment dwellers where heat is always included in the price paid for the apartment. Furthermore, in the case of the more luxurious accommodations, this price may also cover various forms of personal service.

One of the easiest ways of overcoming difficulties is to go

around them. The usual practice in such doubtful and difficult cases is to exclude them altogether from consideration. This, of course, narrows somewhat the field within which investigation can be carried on, but it seems in the main preferable to the addition of further estimates in a field in which, as will be inferred, a certain amount of estimate is unavoidable.

Expenditure for clothing is, in theory at least, readily ascertainable, but the group "sundries" presents a field so rough and uncertain that even the most experienced are likely to stumble. For here is found an amazing conglomerate of expenditure, some of it recurrent, some of it only occasional, spread over a large variety of objects and purposes, goods and services. Under the other headings, expenditure up to a certain point is obligatory, for each group represents a primary necessity. One can not take it or leave it, though one may, except as to heat and light, have a large range of choice as to the things which enter into his consumption.

In the group "sundries," on the other hand, some of the expenditures (for health) are obligatory, and some are entirely optional both as to kind and amount. A reference to the very simple budget of expenditure used in the index of the Cost of Living computed by the National Industrial Conference Board[1] will show a large variety of expenditures under this heading.

An examination of the list will show that some of the items are purely personal for individual members of the family, others, such as outlays for furniture, house furnishing goods and the like, have to do with the maintenance of the household. If the aggregate of such "sundries" expenditure is small, further subdivision is perhaps not necessary, but if it is large, some further classification may clarify the situation. If from expenditures, largely personal in character, those which relate to the equipment and upkeep of the household are separated, it is immediately seen that such expenditures have much in common with those for heat and light. Accordingly, in some of the studies of the expenditures of families, a group is found labeled "house operation." Besides heat and

[1] See p. 57 of this volume.

light, this group includes such expenditures as those mentioned above, and in addition telephone, automobile and all expenses connected with it, laundry, house servants and similar expenses. For families with larger incomes, such a grouping of the expenditure is more expressive than the usual grouping, and results in a somewhat more harmonious group of personal expenditures under the inevitable heading of sundries, miscellaneous or incidentals.

Income and Living Cost Distribution

Differences in incomes and in total cost of living determine not only differences in the number, quality and variety of the articles and services purchased with the family income, but also affect the distribution of the total outlay among the several groups of expenditure which compose it. It is this different distribution of expenditure which constitutes the chief matter of interest in the study of family budgets of different size. The available material for such a study does not go very far beyond the lowest income classes, and is in large part confined to the families of wage earners. More rarely have studies been made of the cost of living of other groups of persons with small incomes, such as retail traders and workers in lesser clerical occupations, but now that the economic position of the "white-collar" worker has become in many respects inferior to that of the industrial wage earner, it is to be expected that it will receive more consideration from sociological investigators. For classes with higher incomes, above $3000, let us say, there are any number of vague surmises, but there is little actual information.

Such information as we have regarding the way in which families spend their money gives an entirely reasonable explanation of these gaps in our knowledge. Within the limited range of incomes for which we possess definite information, certain well defined tendencies appear. Of these the most important is that, as total cost of living increases, the share in this aggregate which is spent for food diminishes. This proposition, originally stated by Dr. Ernst Engel, for many years Chief of the Royal Bureau of Statistics of Prussia, has been confirmed by all subsequent inquiries into the cost of living of wage earners. That it is equally true of the

expenditures of those with larger incomes seems unquestionable. Expenditure for food, as wealth increases, does not grow because we eat more of it, but only because we seek greater variety of diet which involves costlier materials and more elaborate preparation.

According to Dr. Engel's statement, this decrease in the proportion of the income given to food went entirely to swell the expenditures on sundries, since he believed that rent, fuel and light, and clothing maintained approximately the same proportion to the total expenditure, whatever the income might be. More recent investigations have failed to confirm this observation in its entirety. All, however, are substantially agreed on the important fact that expenditures for sundries increase in proportion as the total income grows.

It is generally accepted that rent remains under all circumstances a substantially uniform proportion of the total expenditure. There is disagreement regarding the other items. Some incline to the view that expenditure for fuel and light does not increase proportionately with rent, in other words, in proportion to the total expenditure; also that expenditures for clothing increase more rapidly than does income, so that in higher income classes they form a larger percentage of the total than they do in the smaller income classes. The reconcilement of such divergent views probably lies in the fact that, while all observations are practically limited to the budgets of the wage-earning classes, the range of expenditure for the different series of observations is not the same. Those made by Dr. Engel, for example, were in the main in the lower range of incomes within the class, those of later observers were within the higher range of incomes within the class.

These observations are merely suggestive of what takes place in the family expenditures of persons of larger incomes. That food expenditures do not grow in proportion to the total expenditure seems to be self-evident. Nor does it seem probable that expenditures for rent, for fuel and light, and for clothing are so indefinitely expansible that they would keep pace with the increase of income. This inelasticity in the demand for such purposes probably shows itself among persons of moderate incomes. It is not at all likely

that a family with an income of $10,000 spends twice as much for clothing, rent, fuel and light, as does one with an income of $5000. But thus far there is no broad basis of fact resulting from the analysis of the records of expenditure of families with incomes of various sizes in excess of $3000 or $4000 by which these considerations may be supported.

To return to the original proposition, the main purpose of an inquiry into the actual cost of living at any given place and time, which means at a given price level, is not to ascertain the amount of that cost but to discover how people live, for what purposes and in what proportions they spend their income. Such an inquiry resolves itself into an investigation of the manner of living, or, as it is frequently expressed, the standard of living.

Standards of Living

The widely used phrase, standard of living, which for the statistician expresses the aggregate of articles and services which enter into living expenses, has significance only in its application to some special group. There is no general standard of living, since the manner of living varies so greatly among individuals and families that the idea of a "standard" for the community at large is excluded.

However, it is obvious that the possibility of something approximating a standard is greater for some income classes than for others. Among persons of small incomes, the inexorable necessaries of life absorb a much larger proportion of the total income than among persons whose incomes are more ample. As a general proposition, it may be stated that the smaller the flexible item "sundries" is in the total cost of living, the more nearly are the usual expenditures standardized and the more nearly will an average of observed cases represent a typical distribution of income. On the contrary, the greater this flexible item "sundries" in the total expenditure, the more difficult must it be to establish an average of usual expenditures and the less typical will such an average be when it is ascertained. As income grows larger and total expenditure becomes greater, the more diversified does it become. Not only is there a wide choice in the articles

and services which are grouped as miscellaneous, but this flexibility of expenditure extends also to the other groups in the family budget. Families may be sparing or lavish in supplying the family table; their ideas of the comforts and luxuries of home may vary widely; and their outlay on their wardrobe may or may not reflect the income at their disposal. As has been frequently noted, the purchase of an automobile and the expenses incident to its use may absorb part of the income that would otherwise have gone to home comforts.

These considerations explain why studies of the standard of living have for the most part been confined to industrial wage earners, and to some extent to persons in a similar economic position as regards their family income.

Minimum and Theoretical Standards

Studies of the actual standard of living command more respect the more they are confined to families of like character living under like conditions. The general status of such families will in the main be determined by their earnings, but within any considerable group there will be variations in these earnings. The center of interest in such investigations may therefore be how the kind of expenditure and the proportion of expenditure groups differ with varying incomes.

While it is incontrovertible as a general proposition that the amount of income fixes the cost of living and thus determines the standard of living, it may be true that in some instances it results in a standard of living that is socially undesirable. Investigations of the cost of living among wage earners are frequently prompted by the desire to find out not only what the facts are but whether they are what they ought to be. There is, in other words, a comparison, expressed or implied, with some ideal standard. As long as this standard is purely subjective, resting upon unformulated ideas and sentiments of the investigators, it is likely to color the exposition of the facts without imbuing the reader with a conviction of the conclusiveness of the deductions made.

To obtain a more definite basis upon which to figure the relation between earnings and the cost of living in certain cases, various efforts have been made to establish, for a given

place and time, family budgets representing the *minimum* or some other standard of living, and the cost of this assumed standard. Such figures have, of course, a statistical background. The determination of requirements must be based upon broad and careful observation. Dietary studies may be drawn upon to establish the requisite amount of nourishment, but this must be translated into available concrete articles and quantities. For other classes of expenditure, experience can be the only guide. When the requirements are stated, the question arises whether the minimum price or the usual price is to govern the statement of cost. As a rule, no attempt is made to ascertain an absolute minimum price, which might be wholly exceptional, but rather a price found in sources of supply within the ken of the careful buyer. Such estimates of the cost of living, for example at the minimum standard, contain, it is obvious, some subjective elements where well-grounded opinion takes the place of definitely ascertained fact. In this respect, however, they do not differ so much as appears upon the surface from investigations of the actual cost of living. In the multifarious detail operations of such investigations, there are below the surface many occasions in which the investigator is forced to rely upon his, more frequently perhaps her, judgment.

It is no derogation to the patient and industrious men and women who have devoted themselves to the investigation of standards of living to point out that the result of much painstaking effort is necessarily fragmentary. Apart from some very interesting studies of the minimum costs of living, there is available, for different dates and for scattered communities, information regarding the standard of living of groups of wage earners' families, but information regarding the standard of living among families of somewhat larger incomes is scanty. It has been the purpose of this discussion not only to note these facts, but to set forth in some detail the conditions of the problems involved which make such a result almost inevitable. An understanding of these elements in the situation will be helpful in understanding what has been done and what can be done to satisfy the interest which attaches to the other aspects of the problem which have

attracted much attention, namely comparisons of the cost of living in different places and at different times.

Place Comparisons

If the aspects of the cost of living, thus far considered, may seem to have rather a theoretical than a practical interest, the reverse is true when the question is raised regarding the varying cost of living in different places. There is a wide-spread belief that it costs less to live in some cities of the United States than in others. It is, moreover, frequently assumed that there must be a definite measure in dollars and cents of such differences as may exist. The employer who establishes an agency in a distant city wants to know how much it costs to live in that city in order that he may adjust equitably his scale of salaries. The resident of an inland city who has received what seems to be an attractive offer from New York or Boston wants to know how much it would cost to live in one of these cities. The manufacturer weighs the possibility of different wage scales in different places, based upon supposed differences in the cost of living. In spite of the wide-spread belief that differences of this nature exist, it is possible to measure them only to a limited degree.

The fundamental obstacle to such a measurement lies in the fact that the cost of living is compounded of two elements, the standard of living and the prices which enter into its component elements. It is not always possible to compare prices in different localities; it is almost, if not quite, impossible to tell how the standard of living in different places varies.

The Salaried Classes

The question arises perhaps more frequently for persons in the salaried than in the wage-earning groups. Yet it is precisely for these classes that an answer to the question raises the most perplexities. In any given place there is, as has been seen, little, if any, information in regard to the usual expenditure or standard of living for the moderately well-to-do classes, and consequently there can be no comparison

of such usual expenditures in two different places. There is for persons of this class such a range of optional expenditure that a man who moves with his family to another place may find that a complete rearrangement of his manner of living has become unavoidable. Weighing one standard of living with another or comparing the manner of living in one place with that in another is something which eludes mathematical measurement. Whether the degrees in the standard of living which may be conceivable in one place correspond or do not correspond with the degrees found in another place can not be determined. The individual frequently conceives of the standard of living as something measured not so much by the sum of the material things and the necessary services which enter into a man's expenditure as by the sum of the satisfactions which he derives from such expenditures. He expresses it not alone in terms of dollars and cents, but in such vaguely indefinite terms as comfort, ease and well-being.

The Wage-Earning Group

In so far as the comparison of the cost of living in different places depends upon differences in the standard of living rather than upon differences in prices, the difficulty in comparing the costs of living for wage earners, though less in degree, is similar in kind.

What is the wage earner's standard in one place compared with another? The elusive elements which enter into the answers to the question will be instantly recognized. Apart from the fact that it is difficult to establish *the* wage earner and assure oneself that he is the same in the two communities, there is the possibility of considerable variation in the consumption of this "typical" wage earner. It may be a question of more or less quantity or variety of food; it may be one of housing requirements and the fuel and light which are incidental to it; or of different tastes and habits in the matter of clothing; or in the range, variety and make-up of the miscellaneous expenditure. What the significance of such variations may be is again largely a matter of opinion, and objective measurement is well nigh impracticable.

To such differences the price element adds confusion. Identical things do not cost the same in different places.

Variability of Price

If the measurement of the cost of living, involving as it does questions of standards and of price, presents such enormous difficulties, might it not be possible to isolate the price element and study it separately? Such an undertaking involves the establishment of a definite budget of expenditures and its application to the specific prices ascertained in each community. This procedure is open to the objection that a budget suitable to one place may not be suitable to another. A certain weight can not be denied this objection. Obviously the fuel item involves different consideration in Duluth and in New Orleans, and the clothing item would have different requirements in the upper peninsula of Michigan and in Florida. The component parts of the food requirement might again conceivably differ in considerable degree in different parts of the United States.

Admitting these objections, which dwindle as the geographical area within which comparisons are to be made becomes more restricted, the further question arises whether the procedure suggested is practicable. The answer to this question depends upon whether prices can be obtained in different places for the same articles and services. On the face of things, this seems easy enough; but the moment an effort is made to secure such prices in detail, innumerable problems arise regarding the identity or equivalence of the articles to be priced. The investigator in many instances despairs of securing identical articles and contents himself with pricing articles which he deems equivalent. This introduces a subjective element into the price determination which mars its accuracy.

The degree of objectivity of the prices obtained differs for the several categories of household expenditure. For some of them, notably for food, it is very high. In this field, differences between the articles which go under the same name are practically negligible. In the relatively unimportant group, fuel and lighting, again the articles and services are practically identical. In the more important group of clothing, however, the determination of equivalence in the articles priced in different localities offers almost insuperable difficulties. To say, for example, that a suit of men's clothes

on sale in town A is exactly the same as another on sale in town B is by no means an easy task and is not rendered any easier by that fact that one investigator visits town A and another investigator visits town B. Even more difficult is the matter of housing. No two dwellings in different places are absolutely identical and the question of equivalence is a knotty one in which the investigator's opinion plays a dominant part when rents are to be determined. As to the considerable group of sundries, it is one that baffles the investigator where only a single place is concerned and multiplies his perplexities when a number of places must be considered.

The group, food, does not offer the same difficulties of price determination as do the other groups. Its component parts can be readily stated and easily recognized. It may be assumed therefore that food prices have a high degree of comparability which other retail prices lack. Comparison of the retail prices of food in different communities is the nearest approach that can be made to a comparison of the cost of living in different places. It states the influence of the price element in causing differences in living costs, not for all the elements of that cost, but for the most important element. As already noted, the food element in living costs dominates the total expenditures to a much larger extent for persons with smaller than for those with larger incomes, and hence a comparison of relative food costs is more significant as regards the former than the latter. It is, however, not to be overlooked that a mere difference in the cost of food is not of itself a determining factor in the choice of a residence, even among those who are free to choose. So far as such choice is dictated by considerations of cost, other prices would have to be considered, as well as the standard of living best suited to the needs and income of the individual.

Time Comparisons

The greater part of what passes under the name of a study of the cost of living is concerned not with the absolute cost of living, but with its relative cost at different times. Such investigations deal with an entirely different aspect of the

case—the changes in the cost of living, or more precisely changes in retail prices as they affect the cost of living. The problems involved are only to a limited extent those of sociological inquiry and for the most part they are those of an appropriate and adequate statistical procedure. The specific purpose of such inquiries is to construct an index number of the retail prices of a group of commodities and services so chosen that the group index will represent the cost of living.

Without entering too far into the questions of technical detail which such an endeavor entails,[1] a general statement of some of the leading aspects of the procedure will prove helpful. It will show, moreover, that however complicated it may be in detail, the procedure is on the whole much simpler than that of determining the cost of living or measuring variations in the cost of living between different places and is not beset by many of the difficulties which have been explained in connection with such inquiries.

It will simplify matters if in the first instance the construction of such an index number is assumed to be limited to a single locality, leaving for later discussion questions which may arise in broadening the geographical area to which it applies.

General Aspects of Index Numbers of the Cost of Living

In its most general aspect, the problem involves the construction of suitable indexes of prices and services for each of the main groups of household expenditure, food, housing, fuel and light, clothing, and sundries, and the suitable combination of these separate indexes into a general total representative of the cost of living. Bearing in mind that the changes in the cost of living, which it is usually sought to measure, are changes in the cost of living of the wage earner, the exact significance of this somewhat general statement can perhaps best be appreciated by showing its application to each of the major groups of household expenditure.

[1] These matters are discussed in considerable detail in the chapter "Methods of Compiling Index Numbers of the Cost of Living," in "The Cost of Living in Foreign Countries," *op. cit.*, pp. 5–36.

Food

Retail prices of food are gathered for representative articles, and in forming the index of food prices these articles are combined in representative quantities. Emphasis is properly laid upon the characteristic of representativeness in contrast to that of comprehensiveness. The specific articles of food, consumed by working class families, may run into hundreds of individual articles, but in most inquiries for index purposes a much smaller number is commonly deemed sufficient. The list of articles included is typical rather than exhaustive; it contains the principal articles of food consumption and disregards those of minor importance. Back of this selection is the well-defined assumption of index number construction that the articles not represented fluctuate in price in harmony with the ascertained variation of the known and measured articles.

The coverage of food is thus necessarily partial as to the kinds of food considered. It is also partial as to the aggregate quantity of food whose price fluctuation is measured. For such articles as may be included, the relative weight given to each, i. e., the quantity which it is assumed is consumed, is equally important as the price. The weights are usually determined upon the basis of budget investigations, and, once chosen, remain as a rule unchanged during the period for which the index number is constructed. On the other hand, retail prices of food are constantly changing, and the purpose of the index computation is to secure a measure of this change of price upon the assumption of unchanged consumption.

The necessary preliminary to all these calculations is of course the accurate determination of the prices of individual articles, and here again care must be exercised to secure prices from representative sources, since all sources can not be considered, and to combine them in a reasonable manner.

Rent

In any given locality the type or types of dwellings occupied by the wage-earning classes may be readily determined. If there are several types, the problem of determining the average rent or the average change in rent will require a com-

bination of the various types in proportions governed by local conditions. In certain communities where a part of the working population lives in single houses and a part in tenements due consideration must be given to both.

Fuel and Light

The type of fuel and the character of the light used in dwellings of the working classes may vary among individual families. The retail price of each article must be ascertained and the individual prices suitably combined.

Clothing

In the case of rent and of fuel and light, the ascertainment of price is practically exhaustive, but for clothing, as for food, it is more distinctly representative. The great difficulty of establishing a satisfactory clothing schedule is recognized by all investigators. Goods are not so standardized as in other fields; changes in styles and fabrics are frequent, involving changes in use and even in the relative proportions of expenditure which goes for specific articles of clothing. The actual price of clothing, more perhaps than that of any other group, involves changes in standards as well as in price. To construct a price index of clothing, based upon identical representative articles, for any considerable period of time is somewhat of a puzzle. When it is completed, furthermore, it must be recognized that its value consists less in its intrinsic merit than as a necessary part of the structure of the index of retail prices of the cost of living.

The clothing schedule offers difficulties not only in the combination of the ascertained prices but in the ascertainment of the prices themselves. The description of the goods to be priced is always difficult and is not always understood in the same manner either by different dealers at one time or by the same dealer at different times. In the harmonizing of apparent discrepancies, this schedule calls for the exercise of much judgment and discretion, and affords an example of one of the situations in which subjective elements inevitably enter into what upon the surface is an entirely objective ascertainment of fact.

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Sundries

Some authorities abandon any effort to determine price changes in the sundries group as a hopeless task. They are content to say that the sum of the other groups represents a definite percentage of the entire expenditure of the working class families, and having ascertained the change in this part of the expenditure they consider it fair to assume that it is representative of the entire expenditure.

This procedure, which apparently begs the question, is not so far removed as appears upon the surface from that of those who endeavor to establish an index for sundries. An analysis of the sundries group in any budget investigation reveals a large variety of articles and services which individually absorb very small fractions of the family income. Many of them are of such a nature that it is impossible to measure their price changes, and no attempt is made to do so. It is sometimes assumed that they remain uniform; sometimes that they change in price in harmony with the ascertained elements in the sundries group; and sometimes that they change in harmony with the general change in the cost of living.

Widening the Geographical Area of the Inquiry

Thus far the problems of ascertaining price changes for the purpose of constructing an index of the cost of living have been considered with reference to a single locality. Before considering how the results for the separate expenditure groups are combined into a total, it may be well to discuss how the inquiry is extended to a number of places in order to form a national index.

It is obvious that except for a limited number of articles it would be difficult to collect retail prices in all the localities of a country,[1] for such a list as would be involved in any satisfactory inquiry into changes of the cost of living would be wholly impracticable. There must therefore be a choice of localities and the only rule that can be given is that the places chosen must be representative. They must be representative in their location in the different sections of the

[1] There are in some European countries indexes of retail prices of a few articles of food which practically do this.

country and they must be representative of the economic interests involved, usually the distribution of industrial wage earners. Whether when the prices have been ascertained in various localities, these prices or price changes should or should not be weighted by population or some other measure in determining an average for the country as a whole is a matter upon which practice differs.

One further point deserves consideration. It was said at an earlier stage of the discussion that for most articles, except food, a comparison of retail prices in different communities was impracticable. How then can a price index be extended to different places? This can be done because such an index is not concerned with absolute prices but with the changes in prices. From this point of view it is no longer necessary to establish the absolute identity of the articles priced in different communities. It is enough that in each community the same article is priced at each period, even though it may differ slightly from another article passing under the same name in another place.

Again, it was stated in the discussion of place comparisons that the standard of living differed among them. Is it permissible then to ignore this fact when making an index number of the cost of living in the whole country, to collect in each locality the prices of identical articles and to give each the same weight in forming the total? The answer is that presumably such differences as may exist among localities regarding the standard of living have been taken into account as far as necessary in determining the average distribution of expenditure upon which the index of changes in the cost of living is based. Perhaps, as will appear in the following discussion, an exact correspondence between actual expenditure and the basic distribution of expenditure is only in slight degree necessary for the calculations in question.

The Index and the Budget

The representative figures which have been ascertained for the main groups of expenditure are finally combined in the proportions assigned to each group in the basic budget to form the index number. In order to emphasize more strongly that the essence of an index number of the changes

in the cost of living is essentially an index number of retail prices, the consideration of the part played by the budget in such an index has purposely been left for final consideration.

The purpose of the basic budget in these indexes is to fix (1) the specific representative articles for which prices are to be obtained, (2) the importance of each of these items within the group to which it belongs and (3) the relative importance of the groups.

For this purpose, one distribution of family expenditures or budget will serve as well as another, provided both are representative. Since the budget selected is in one sense a conventional one, i. e., one agreed upon for the purpose, any discussion of one distribution compared with another turns on whether they are equally typical or representative. The establishment of a budget has not been deemed a necessary part of the construction of index numbers of changes in the cost of living. Most authorities which have produced such indexes have taken their budgets ready-made from previous investigations of their own or of others. All that one can ask of a budget used as a basis for an index number of retail prices is that it should be reasonable, that the standard of living which it represents should be a fair approximation to that of the social group, usually the industrial wage earners, for whose cost of living the index is computed.

Changing Standards

The question sometimes arises whether the index of the cost of living should take into consideration not only prices but also changes in the standards of living. To this question the usual reply is that the changes which take place in the standard of living from year to year are probably so slight that it would make very little difference in the result, even if it were practical to measure the changing standards, which is not the case.

The question presents a somewhat different aspect if it is recalled that after a lapse of a period of years these small changes may reach to a considerable amount, as for example in the case of post-war and pre-war budgets. This contention appears so plausible that it merits some consideration. The first step is to discover the probable differences between post-

war and pre-war budgets. The higher "real income" of the industrial wage earner has allowed him a more generous scale of living than he had before the war. This means that he can buy more things than formerly and it means that he probably spends proportionately a little less for food, probably the same proportion for rent and fuel and light, more perhaps for clothing and undoubtedly more for sundries.

Outside of his expenditures for clothing and sundries, it is not likely that the post-war standard results in the purchase of different articles. It is not, for example, to be expected that the kinds of food purchased have changed or that, if they have, the price changes of these new foods would differ materially from those of the representative articles which made up the greater part of the food group in the pre-war budget. In the matter of clothing, particularly women's wear, there have been numerous changes. A price index based upon articles consumed before the war can not be so satisfactory as one which in one form or another takes cognizance of these replacements. Most of the change in consumption habits has probably come in the group of sundries, one in which the measurement of price changes is least satisfactory. There is little reason to believe that the trend of prices in each group measured upon the total articles of consumption in a post-war budget would differ materially from the trend of prices upon the articles which constituted a pre-war budget.

There remains, then, the question: "How far would a post-war budget shift the relative proportions assignable to the major groups?" In the absence of direct investigations, this can not be positively stated. It is to be surmised, however, from general considerations that slight changes would occur. If the present price levels of the different groups varied widely, such a shifting in proportion would produce a noticeable change in the index of the total cost of living. So far, however, as the price levels for the different groups tend toward uniformity, the effect of shifting in the proportion assigned to each would reduce the resultant change in the total index to small proportions.

This chapter has successively considered the several interests which attach to the cost of living. It has shown limits

within which the absolute cost of living may be measured. It has shown how far valid comparisons of the cost of living may be made between different places. It has stated some of the problems of constructing an index of retail prices representative of changes in the cost of living. It has made no attempt to discuss the various technical expedients by which it has been sought to overcome the obstacles encountered in the investigation of the cost of living in any of its aspects. It has called attention to the fact that whatever results may be obtained are of necessity useful approximations rather than exact measurements. In a subsequent chapter, the methods of the National Industrial Conference Board will be discussed in detail and it will be seen how considerable a labor must be expended to secure as accurate results as possible.

CHAPTER II

FOOD PRICES IN DIFFERENT CITIES

THE previous chapter stated some of the problems which were involved in comparisons of the cost of living in different places. The suggestion was made that even when the element of the standard of living is eliminated and the comparison confined to the price element, considerable obstacles are encountered to a satisfactory solution of the problem, except perhaps so far as the price of food is concerned. In view, however, of the wide-spread interest in the diversity of living costs in different places, it will be worth while to analyze the available data in regard to food prices in order to establish, if possible, some measure of the variation in price level from place to place.

Price Data Available

For a number of years, the United States Bureau of Labor Statistics has collected and published average retail prices of a considerable number of articles of food in a number of cities. In addition to the obvious value of such figures for the purpose of comparing customary food prices for specific articles, the figures collected have been used in two connections to establish index numbers of changes in the aggregate cost of food. The food quotations on the several articles have been combined to give an average price for the United States. This average price, combined with the standard consumption of each article, has given the figure upon which is based the index number of food in the calculation by the United States Bureau of Labor Statistics of the general index of the cost of living in the United States. The index number of the cost of living compiled by the National Industrial Conference Board uses for the food item the results of the computation by the Bureau of Labor Statistics.[1]

The food prices collected are also utilized by the Bureau for the construction of a series of index numbers of changes in

[1] See Chapter III of this volume.

the cost of living in different localities. For this purpose, the average price of each article in each locality is multiplied by a unit of consumption appropriate to the district in which the city is situated. When these products are added together, the result is a total cost of food in each city which is compared with the cost of food in the same city in 1913 for the purpose of establishing an index of changes in food prices in each city.

Before examining the details of these operations, it may be well to point out that the indexes of the cost of food in different cities published by the United States Bureau of Labor Statistics show only the relation to the base period in that particular city and do not show whether or not the cost of food is relatively high or relatively low in that particular place. With certain limitations which will be explained, there is, however, in the publications of the Bureau of Labor Statistics ample material for a comparison of the relative cost of food in different sections of the country, and while this material has been utilized occasionally for such a purpose, the possibility of a general study of relative levels of food prices seems to have been overlooked.

Food Articles Priced

Prices are now collected monthly for forty-three articles, and these are combined into index numbers by processes to be described later. It is only since 1921 that the figures have been so comprehensive. Formerly, only twenty-two food articles were priced. The index series for the period from 1913 to 1920 rests therefore on a smaller basis than since 1920. The continuous index, however, implies that, had prices been available for all forty-three articles in the years 1913 to 1920, their combined fluctuation would have been the same as for the twenty-two articles whose prices were actually recorded in those years. This assumption is to be borne in mind in case it is sought to ascertain by means of present total prices and the computed index number the total price in the base year 1913.[1]

[1] "From 1913 to 1920, the index numbers were uniformly computed from the prices of 22 food articles. In 1921, when the number of articles was increased to 43, the following plan was adopted: It was assumed that the total cost of the 43 articles, if this information had been obtained, would have shown the same per-

The process of linking up one series with another here described was used in the general index of the cost of living for the United States as calculated by the Bureau. A similar procedure was followed in the food indexes for the individual cities.

The forty-three articles of food for which prices are at present collected are listed in Table 1. It is not assumed, for the purpose of constructing food price indexes for the different cities, that the consumption of these principal articles of food is actually uniform in quantity in all the cities. The country is divided into five sections—North Atlantic, South Atlantic, North Central, South Central and Western. In each of these areas a definite quantity is assigned for the consumption of each of these principal articles of food. These amounts for the whole United States, together with the average for the whole United States, are given in Table 1.

Budgets and Their Significance

In order to avoid any confusion of thought, it may be well to inquire in what sense the quantities of food noted in the text may be deemed a "budget." Strictly speaking, a budget is nothing more than a reasonable grouping of the items which form the total. When the actual cost of living is to be measured, it is necessary for the budget to be comprehensive —its total, in other words, is the desired measure of the cost of living. For the purpose of ascertaining changes in the price levels of the articles and services which make up the cost of living, however, it is necessary only that the budget or list of articles should be representative.[1]

The food budgets upon which the calculations of the United States Bureau of Labor Statistics are based are

centage of change from 1913 to December, 1920, as was shown by the 22 articles. Therefore, the index number for the 22 articles in December, 1920, which was found to be 177.85, was accepted as the index number for the 43 articles. The money cost of the 43 articles in December, 1920 was found to be $461.51. The ratio of the money cost to the relative cost in December, 1920 was therefore 461.51 to 177.85 or 1 to 0.3854. For each month since December, 1920, the index number has been obtained by multiplying the money cost of the 43 articles by 0.3854. The resulting index numbers are comparable with the index numbers for years and months prior to January, 1921, on 22 articles." U. S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, "Retail Prices, 1913–1926," Bulletin 445, p. 3.

[1] See p. 23 of this volume.

TABLE 1: FOOD, ARTICLES AND WEIGHTS: ANNUAL CONSUMPTION PER FAMILY

(Source: U. S. Bureau of Labor Statistics)

Article	Unit	United States	North Atlantic	South Atlantic	North Central	South Central	Western
Sirloin steak	Pound	32	27	35	34	38	39
Round steak	Pound	32	27	35	34	38	39
Rib roast	Pound	31	30	24	32	24	39
Chuck roast	Pound	31	30	24	32	24	39
Plate beef	Pound	23	25	17	23	16	27
Pork chops	Pound	36	29	43	45	42	25
Bacon	Pound	17	13	20	18	17	19
Ham	Pound	22	26	43	14	19	10
Lamb	Pound	8	14	2	2	1	13
Hens	Pound	23	25	24	23	22	19
Salmon, canned	Pound	9	10	9	9	9	6
Milk, fresh	Quart	337	412	155	364	177	377
Milk, evaporated	Pound	77	95	73	48	85	92
Butter	Pound	66	75	56	53	60	89
Oleomargarine	Pound	16	8	9	30	16	8
Nut margarine	Pound	6	4	5	11	3	2
Cheese	Pound	12	12	13	12	11	15
Lard	Pound	34	27	38	45	38	18
Vegetable lard substitute	Pound	9	6	10	5	22	16
Eggs, strictly fresh	Dozen	61	68	57	53	55	70
Bread	Pound	531	642	417	521	450	438
Flour	Pound	264	224	313	263	318	280
Corn meal	Pound	54	29	108	39	140	34
Rolled oats	Pound	41	45	31	39	38	45
Corn flakes	Pound	7	6	6	6	13	5
Wheat cereal	Pound	7	7	2	6	3	12
Macaroni	Pound	23	25	15	20	29	27
Rice	Pound	35	32	55	26	56	28
Beans, navy	Pound	22	23	17	25	21	19
Potatoes	Pound	704	746	514	810	485	706
Onions	Pound	66	72	52	62	82	64
Cabbage	Pound	65	62	61	70	66	61
Beans, baked	Pound	7	8	10	6	5	4
Corn, canned	Pound	10	8	9	13	10	10
Peas, canned	Pound	10	10	9	13	9	9
Tomatoes, canned	Pound	16	15	21	10	35	12
Sugar	Pound	147	140	145	154	133	161
Tea	Pound	8	13	6	5	3	6
Coffee	Pound	40	33	42	45	52	35
Prunes	Pound	11	14	9	11	8	10
Raisins	Pound	9	9	4	11	7	12
Bananas	Dozen[1]	11	11	8	11	13	9
Oranges	Dozen[1]	7	6	9	6	9	8

[1] In cities where most of the sales on bananas are by the pound rather than by the dozen, the weightings as given in this table have been multiplied by 3 and have then been applied to the prices on the pound.

designed to represent the food consumption of wage earners' families; they state the consumption of specific articles, but do not state the total food consumption. The budgets are based upon the exhaustive study of the cost of living in the United States which was made by the Bureau in 1918 and 1919. For the articles mentioned on the list, they give for each section the expenditure of the average family, which for the United States as a whole numbered 4.9 persons. They disregard the expenditure for other items of food, many of which are closely similar to the articles enumerated. The purpose was to include, as far as possible, every type of food, but not the total amount under each type.

Representative Character of Budgets

How far the specified articles represent food consumption from this point of view of different types of food can be seen by comparing the list here given with the more detailed statement given by the Bureau in one of its publications.[1] The extent to which the specified articles represent the total amount of food consumed can be approximately measured by computing the nutritive value of these food budgets in calories. This is given in Table 2.

TABLE 2: ESTIMATED CALORIES IN BUDGETS USED FOR DETERMINING CHANGES IN FOOD PRICES

Region	Estimated Calories in Annual Consumption of 43 Articles of Food	Per Cent of Approximate Total Annual Food Requirement[1]
United States	3,142,800	70
North Atlantic	3,197,203	71
South Atlantic	2,928,469	65
North Central	3,172,220	70
South Central	3,122,255	69
Western	3,115,069	69

[1] Annual food requirement estimated for a family of 5 persons, man, wife, two younger children, and one grown son or daughter, is 4,500,000 calories.

Dietary investigations of food requirements have established a daily requirement of 3,500 calories for a man at work. Allowances for the wife and three children bring the

[1] U. S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, "The Cost of Living in the United States," Bulletin 357, May, 1924, pp. 108–119.

annual family requirement to approximately 4,500,000 calories.[1] Of this amount, only a little more than two-thirds is represented by the calories estimated for the average budget for the United States here used for the study of changes in food prices. A still rougher measure of the extent to which these specific articles priced represent aggregate food expenditure can be found in their total cost. As will be noted later, the maximum cost in any of the cities of the United States was approximately $480. For New York City, the Bureau's computed total cost of the specified articles in 1926 was about $300 less than the estimate of the food cost for a family of five as prepared by the National Industrial Conference Board.[2] This point is stressed, in order to avert, if possible, any misconception of the significance of the statements to be made later with regard to the aggregate cost of food. Obviously, the cost of food in different cities and in the United States as a whole, whether expressed in the form of dollars and cents or in the form of percentages, is simply a statistical device for the purpose of measuring relative prices of food and not in any sense a statement of aggregate family expenditure for food.

Annual Food Outlay

From the figures compiled by the Bureau of Labor for individual prices of food and with the aid of the food budgets already mentioned, the National Industrial Conference Board has computed the annual outlay for this group of food products in fifty-one cities in 1926, the last year for which the average prices have been published. In order to make clear the difference which arises from the variation in the budget of these specific articles as well as the variation resulting from different price levels, the aggregate cost of food has been computed for each city, first upon the basis of the average budget for the United States, and second upon the basis of each regional budget, and the figures are presented in Table 3.

[1] A statement of such requirements with references to further literature on the subject will be found in the National Industrial Conference Board's volume on "The Cost of Living in New York City, 1926," p. 47. The figure stated is rounded off in the direction of a decrease and this in part makes up for the fact that the families on which the budget was based averaged a little less than four persons.

[2] "The Cost of Living in New York City, 1926," p. 87.

Table 3: Cost of a Budget of 43 Articles of Food in 51 Cities at Average Prices of 1926, According to Various Regional Standards of Consumption

(Source: National Industrial Conference Board)

Cities and Geographic Regions	Regional Standards						Percentage Comparisons Index Numbers Average of U. S. =100	
	United States	North Atlantic	South Atlantic	North Central	South Central	Western	Each City on Basis of U. S. Budget	Each City on Basis of Its Appointed Regional Budget
North Atlantic								
Boston, Mass.	$456.15	$476.28	$415.74	$453.59	$428.55	$467.37	109.46	114.30
Bridgeport, Conn.	440.09	460.90	399.50	437.41	411.35	450.18	105.61	110.60
Buffalo, N. Y.	410.37	430.49	371.90	408.11	383.94	416.98	98.48	103.31
Fall River, Mass.	438.59	458.41	399.11	435.87	413.20	449.20	105.25	110.01
Manchester, N. H.	421.34	440.87	381.68	418.50	396.27	433.21	101.11	105.80
Newark, N. J.	432.28	453.46	389.72	430.78	399.61	441.50	103.74	108.82
New Haven, Conn.	445.93	466.87	403.76	444.00	416.52	456.16	107.01	112.04
New York, N. Y.	439.73	461.33	397.53	438.10	408.31	448.52	105.52	110.71
Philadelphia, Pa.	426.77	446.57	389.10	424.64	398.72	435.42	102.41	107.17
Pittsburgh, Pa.	429.84	451.09	390.74	427.03	401.28	436.59	103.15	108.25
Portland, Me.	434.70	455.04	396.34	431.61	409.40	443.37	104.32	109.20
Providence, R. I.	448.96	468.41	409.10	446.64	422.02	453.69	107.74	112.41
Rochester, N. Y.	405.56	424.85	368.86	403.01	380.64	411.67	97.32	101.95
Scranton, Pa.	435.38	454.50	399.43	432.62	411.70	441.35	104.48	109.07
Simple Average—14 Cities	433.26	453.51	393.75	430.85	405.82	441.80	103.97	108.81
South Atlantic								
Atlanta, Ga.	456.38	485.40	400.81	455.95	412.99	464.52	109.52	96.18
Baltimore, Md.	409.91	432.53	369.59	407.61	377.21	416.75	98.37	88.69
Charleston, S. C.	430.69	457.70	378.36	430.35	390.74	446.46	103.35	90.80
Jacksonville, Fla.	468.26	499.77	407.07	469.19	422.70	476.19	112.37	97.69
Norfolk, Va.	428.97	454.63	378.57	428.07	390.96	446.83	102.94	90.85
Richmond, Va.	426.13	449.19	379.93	424.68	393.57	434.78	102.26	91.17
Savannah, Ga.	428.64	454.94	375.83	429.72	388.21	435.21	102.86	90.19
Washington, D. C.	432.90	454.49	391.55	430.57	401.89	441.93	103.89	93.96
Simple Average—8 Cities	435.24	461.08	385.21	434.52	397.28	445.33	104.45	92.43
North Central								
Chicago, Ill.	419.89	440.88	379.83	423.21	391.72	426.59	100.76	101.56
Cincinnati, Ohio	400.97	421.82	361.82	399.46	371.34	406.70	96.22	95.86
Cleveland, Ohio	417.03	436.83	378.19	415.27	389.54	423.46	100.08	99.65
Columbus, Ohio	397.04	416.07	361.34	394.25	371.21	403.35	95.28	94.61
Detroit, Mich.	411.78	431.46	375.14	408.92	385.41	418.67	98.82	98.13
Indianapolis, Ind.	394.57	413.47	359.17	392.31	368.14	400.93	94.69	94.14
Kansas City, Mo.	402.02	422.85	364.59	399.38	375.83	403.27	96.47	95.84
Milwaukee, Wis.	382.56	400.33	350.11	379.51	360.86	387.87	91.80	91.07
Minneapolis, Minn.	380.96	398.85	348.66	377.95	360.41	383.88	91.42	90.70
Omaha, Nebr.	399.25	418.15	364.65	397.34	376.41	400.74	95.81	95.35
Peoria, Ill.	395.41	414.82	359.68	393.34	371.45	398.45	94.89	94.39
St. Louis, Mo.	399.61	421.32	359.69	397.40	370.50	407.62	95.90	95.37
St. Paul, Minn.	402.36	419.93	368.35	400.07	379.82	407.51	96.56	96.01
Springfield, Ill.	407.39	428.24	368.69	405.35	380.72	411.45	97.76	97.27
Simple Average—14 Cities	400.77	420.36	364.28	398.84	375.24	405.75	96.18	95.70
South Central								
Birmingham, Ala.	457.55	486.23	403.39	460.29	416.32	465.94	109.80	99.91
Dallas, Tex.	422.74	444.87	381.27	421.72	391.60	426.02	101.45	93.97
Houston, Tex.	404.87	428.14	358.76	405.47	368.37	410.60	97.16	88.40
Little Rock, Ark.	419.31	442.85	374.17	418.50	385.09	424.70	100.62	92.41
Louisville, Ky.	400.64	421.25	361.33	398.77	372.78	406.35	96.14	89.46
Memphis, Tenn.	409.38	433.75	364.73	407.57	374.72	424.82	98.24	89.92
Mobile, Ala.	433.42	459.30	381.99	433.80	393.00	441.75	104.01	94.31
New Orleans, La.	395.71	417.70	355.33	394.52	361.39	403.90	94.96	86.72
Simple Average—8 Cities	417.95	441.76	372.62	417.58	382.91	425.36	100.30	91.87
Western								
Butte, Mont.	403.07	427.30	368.40	393.77	377.95	413.69	96.73	99.28
Denver, Colo.	377.33	395.49	343.96	375.42	353.29	380.82	90.55	91.39
Los Angeles, Calif.	412.91	433.24	375.82	412.18	382.77	416.27	99.09	99.89
Portland, Ore.	381.63	400.32	348.48	378.87	359.06	383.48	91.58	92.03
Salt Lake City, Utah	374.99	393.45	343.67	371.62	355.43	374.22	89.99	89.80
San Francisco, Calif.	410.13	430.14	374.89	408.63	382.40	412.10	98.42	98.89
Seattle, Wash.	393.63	413.86	361.08	391.78	370.81	396.40	94.46	95.13
Simple Average—7 Cities	393.38	413.40	359.47	390.32	368.82	396.71	94.40	95.18
Simple Average—51 Cities	416.78	438.25	376.30	414.99	387.41	423.69		
Index, Base, U. S. =100	100.00	105.15	90.29	99.57	92.95	101.66		

Influence of Budgets upon Place Comparisons

In order to separate the influences of the different budgets from that of the price levels, a comparison may be made of the average expenditure in all of the cities by each of the separate budgets. The maximum expenditure is found with the North Atlantic budget, namely, $438.25; the minimum with the South Atlantic budget, $376.30. Compared with the average of the United States, which is $416.78, the North Atlantic budget gives a result 5.2% higher than the average, the South Atlantic budget, one which is 9.7% lower than the average, a range therefore of approximately 15%. This is the extent to which a variation in the outlay for the specified articles of food would be expected, provided prices were uniform in all cities. In such a case, the expenditure of a given city would be identical for other cities in the same region, but would differ from that of cities in other regions, by reason of the varying quantities of individual articles of food on which the total was computed.

Influence of Prices upon Place Comparisons

The second step in the procedure is to ascertain what is the effect of varying prices on an absolutely uniform consumption in the quantities of the food articles included in the group. This of course can be done by a comparison of the computed figures for the different cities on any one of the several budgets used. It is most convenient to relate such a computation to the average budget of the United States. If the results for all the cities in each section are averaged and this average is compared with that for the United States as a whole considered as 100, the following results are obtained:

North Atlantic 103.97	North Central 96.18
South Atlantic 104.45	South Central 100.30
Western 94.40	

There is therefore a total range of deviation from the average of about ten per cent. If, however, the individual cities be compared with the average of the United States, and the divergence of the extreme points be contrasted with the divergence which results from a comparison of budgets only,

it will be seen the differences which arise from prices are less important.

Price, however, is a factor which can not be wholly ignored. For individual cities the range of variation is from 89.99% of the average of the United States in Salt Lake City to 112.37% of this average in Jacksonville, Florida. The following statement shows the maximum and minimum for each region in comparison with the average of the United States:

Food Costs in Different Sections—Per Cent of United States Average

Region	*Highest*		*Lowest*	
North Atlantic	Boston	109.46	Rochester	97.32
South Atlantic	Jacksonville	112.37	Baltimore	98.37
North Central	Chicago	100.76	Minneapolis	91.42
South Central	Birmingham	109.80	New Orleans	94.96
Western	Los Angeles	99.09	Salt Lake City	89.99

The combined effect of differences in the budget and differences in prices is shown in the last column of Table 3, which gives the relation of each city on its appropriate regional budget to the average of the United States. Averaging for each region all the cities contained in it and comparing these averages with that of the United States expressed as 100, the following results are obtained:

North Atlantic 108.81	North Central 95.70
South Atlantic 92.43	South Central 91.87
Western 95.18	

For individual cities on this basis, the largest expenditure for the specified articles of food was in Boston, where it was 14.30% higher than the average for the United States. The lowest was in New Orleans, where it was 13.29% lower than the average for the United States. If then the consumption of the specified articles of food can be taken as representative both in quantity and kind of the aggregate consumption of food in different sections of the country, we have in 1926, for the cities named, a variation of 27.59% of the average cost of food for wage earners' families in the United States. Of course, if the comparison of the extreme points were confined to the same geographical area, the range of variation would be much smaller.

Combined Time and Place Comparisons

The comparisons thus far considered refer to the price levels of the year 1926. There remains to be considered the further question whether the differences between places which may be observed in 1926 are typical for the entire period under review. This could be ascertained by figuring the aggregate cost of the specified articles of food on the basis of the United States budget for each year including the base year 1913 if prices were available for each year. But this process would be somewhat laborious and in any event could not be applied for the years before 1921 in which prices were collected for twenty-two articles only. Instead of working from the original figures to the index number, the usual procedure, we can work back from the published index numbers to the original figures. By this method we can arrive at an estimated cost in 1913 of the forty-three articles of food now contained in the index and only by this method can such an estimate be made.

Knowing, as a result of the calculations in Table 3, the total price in 1926 of these articles of food for each city according to the pertinent regional budget, and knowing the index number for each city, we can compute the estimated cost of these articles of food in 1913, the base year. If desired, the estimated total cost of the forty-three articles could be obtained for each year of the series. The computation of estimated actual cost of the specified group of food articles in 1913 is for each city on the basis of the budget of the region to which the city belongs. For the general index of food prices in the United States, the estimated actual cost for the base period, 1913, can be computed in the same way.

The relation which exists between the estimated basic food price total for individual cities and the estimated basic food price total for the United States shows how much higher or lower would have been the basic total for each city if it had been computed on the average budget for the United States instead of upon its appropriate regional budget.

In the index figures published by the United States Bureau of Labor Statistics for each city, the basic price total is derived from the regional budget, and in the index computation it becomes 100. If for this base of 100 we substitute the

relation which has been calculated above and if then we multiply each index already ascertained by this relation, we obtain a new index based upon the average of the United States in 1913 as 100. The materials for the calculation of this new index and the index itself are given in Table 4.

The new index which is here given has the merit of combining in a single table both time and place comparisons. In the indexes hitherto published by the Bureau of Labor Statistics, an index of 161.7 in Boston and one of 140.3 in Portland, Oregon, meant only that, compared with Boston prices in 1913, the 1926 prices were 61.7% greater and that, compared with Portland prices in 1913, those of 1926 in that city were 40.3% higher. Prices, in other words, advanced less in Portland than they did in Boston, but whether at the outset they were higher in one city or in the other does not appear from the tables which have been printed in the *Monthly Labor Review*. Table 4 gives an approximate solution to this difficulty. It states that, compared with the average of the United States in 1913 as 100, the price in Boston in 1926 was 175.8 and that in Portland, Oregon, it was 147.1. Since both of these figures refer to the same base, we can measure how far the price of food in Portland falls below that in Boston at the present time. Furthermore, we can ascertain that a part of this difference was due to the fact that in 1913 Portland prices were somewhat lower than Boston prices and a part was due to the fact that the rate of increase has been less in Portland than in Boston.[1]

Table 4 is suggestive and contains the possibility of many interesting comparisons. In order to show how the figures given may be utilized in inter-city comparisons, five cities, representing the several regional budgets, are given with reference to the index number of food cost on Chart 2. The lines in the chart represent the index numbers for each city upon the basis of the average for the United States in 1913. As was to be expected, the price movement from 1913 to 1926 has been similar for all these cities. However, it has not been identical, nor do these cities appear in every year in

[1] The type of index number which combines at the same time comparisons of time and place was first developed in Australia and has been extended to the Union of South Africa and to New Zealand. See National Industrial Conference Board, "The Cost of Living in Foreign Countries," 1927.

Table 4: Index Numbers of Retail Food Prices in 39 Cities and in United States, 1913–1926

		United States	North Atlantic Cities										
			Boston, Mass.	Buffalo, N. Y.	Fall River, Mass.	Manchester, N. H.	Newark, N. J.	New Haven, Conn.	New York, N. Y.	Phila., Pa.	Pittsburgh, Pa.	Providence, R. I.	Scranton, Pa.
Aggregate cost of 43 articles at 1926 prices; United States budget		416.78	456.15	410.37	438.59	421.34	432.28	445.93	439.73	426.77	429.84	448.96	435.38
(a) Compiled by U. S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. Base: 1913 Average for Each City = 100													
Indexes: 1913 = 100	1913	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
	1914	102.4	101.8	101.0	101.8	102.5	101.7	102.0	101.4	102.0	102.5	103.0	100.9
	1915	101.3	100.8	101.1	101.4	102.0	101.7	101.3	100.9	101.1	100.2	101.3	99.7
	1916	113.7	111.5	114.8	112.4	112.9	110.5	115.1	111.8	113.0	111.8	113.9	112.4
	1917	146.4	142.4	154.4	142.4	145.3	143.0	146.2	146.4	146.3	148.0	147.8	146.5
	1918	168.3	164.0	177.0	166.4	170.4	167.2	171.0	167.1	171.5	170.4	172.8	169.7
	1919	185.9	180.8	191.9	182.8	184.7	179.9	183.1	186.0	186.4	186.4	188.7	187.4
	1920	203.4	203.2	209.5	203.9	206.2	195.3	201.4	203.8	201.0	202.3	208.8	208.5
	1921	153.3	157.4	155.6	154.9	156.3	149.4	152.4	157.1	151.9	153.4	161.3	161.7
	1922	141.6	144.6	147.1	143.8	141.5	139.4	140.9	146.9	143.2	139.3	146.5	148.1
	1923	146.2	151.3	151.0	149.7	148.9	145.7	149.3	153.0	149.4	149.2	152.8	152.9
	1924	145.9	149.0	148.8	145.2	145.1	143.5	145.9	150.2	146.7	147.9	149.4	148.5
	1925	157.4	158.5	161.6	153.4	152.3	150.7	155.3	160.2	159.3	158.3	157.8	161.5
	1926	160.6	161.7	166.4	158.4	156.9	153.6	160.9	163.9	163.9	162.4	161.7	165.4
Estimated cost in 1913:		259.47	282.10	246.62	276 89	268.54	281.43	277.15	268.29	260.38	264.68	277.65	263.23
Ratio of each city to U. S. in 1913:		100.00	108.71	95.04	106.71	103.49	108.46	106.81	103.39	100.34	102.00	107.00	101.44
(b) Estimated by National Industrial Conference Board. Base: 1913 Average for United States = 100													
Indexes based on U. S. 1913 = 100	1913	100.0	108.7	95.0	106.7	103.5	108.5	106.8	103.4	100.3	102.0	107.0	101.4
	1914	102.4	110.7	96.0	108.6	106.1	110.3	108.9	104.8	102.3	104.6	110.2	102.4
	1915	101.3	109.6	96.1	108.2	105.6	110.3	108.2	104.3	101.4	102.2	108.4	101.1
	1916	113.7	121.2	109.1	119.9	116.8	119.8	122.9	115.6	113.4	114.0	121.9	114.0
	1917	146.4	154.8	146.7	152.0	150.4	155.1	156.2	151.4	146.8	151.0	158.1	148.6
	1918	168.3	178.3	168.2	177.6	176.3	181.3	182.6	172.8	172.1	173.8	184.9	172.1
	1919	185.9	196.5	182.4	195.1	191.1	195.1	195.6	192.3	187.0	190.1	201.9	190.1
	1920	203.4	220.9	199.1	217.6	213.4	211.8	215.1	210.7	201.7	206.3	223.4	211.5
	1921	153.3	171.1	147.9	165.3	161.8	162.0	162.8	162.4	152.4	156.5	172.6	164.0
	1922	141.6	157.2	139.8	153.4	146.4	151.2	150.5	151.9	143.7	142.1	156.8	150.2
	1923	146.2	164.5	143.5	159.7	154.1	158.0	159.5	158.2	149.9	152.2	163.5	155.1
	1924	145.9	162.0	141.4	154.9	150.2	155.6	155.8	155.3	147.2	150.9	159.9	150.6
	1925	157.4	172.3	153.6	163.7	157.6	163.4	165.9	165.6	159.8	161.5	168.8	163.8
	1926	160.6	175.8	158.1	169.0	162.4	166.6	171.9	169.5	164.5	165.6	173.0	167.8

Table 4: Index Numbers of Retail Food Prices in 39 Cities and in United States, 1913–1926—(*Continued*)

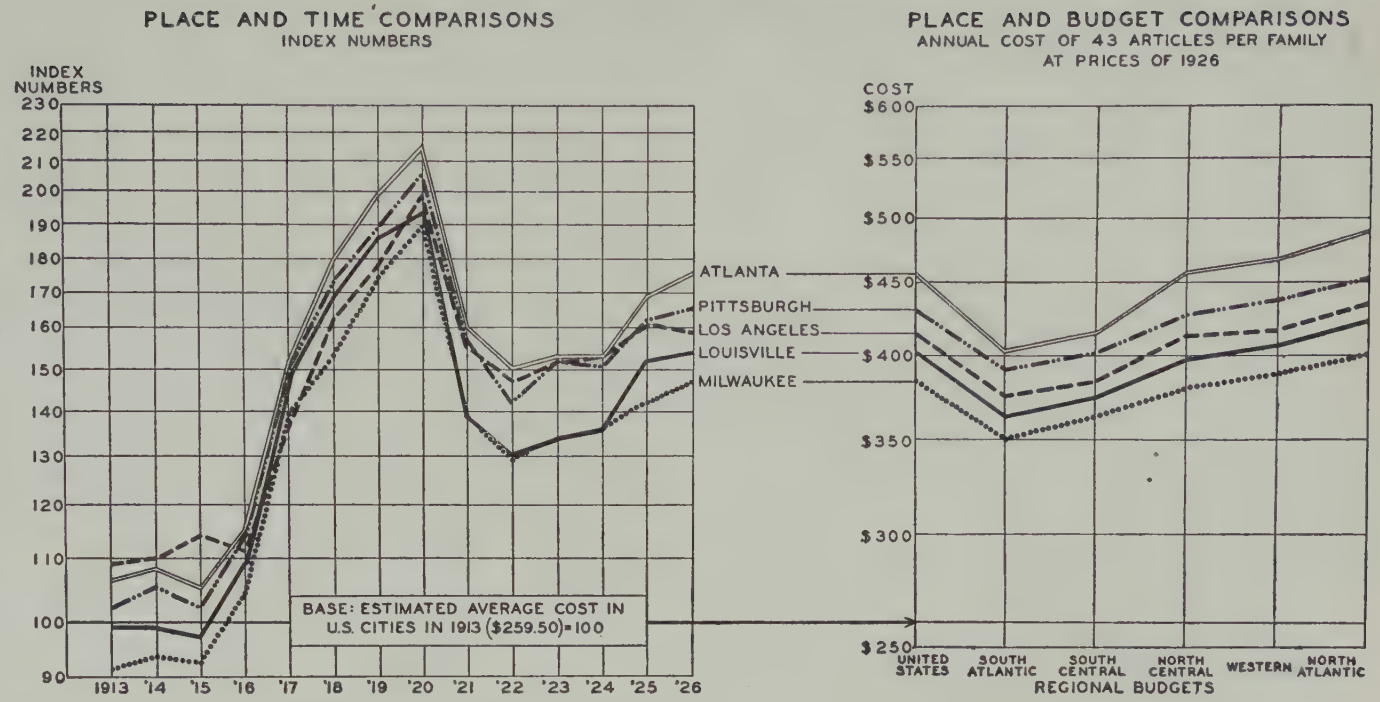
		South Atlantic Cities						South Central Cities					
		Atlanta, Ga.	Baltimore, Md.	Charleston, S. C.	Jacksonville, Fla.	Richmond, Va.	Washington, D. C.	Birmingham, Ala.	Dallas, Tex.	Little Rock, Ark.	Louisville, Ky.	Memphis, Tenn.	New Orleans, La.
Aggregate cost of 43 articles at 1926 prices; United States budget		456.38	409.91	430.69	468.26	426.13	432.90	457.55	422.74	419.31	400.64	409.38	395.71
(a) Compiled by U. S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. Base: 1913 Average for Each City = 100													
Indexes: 1913 = 100	1913	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
	1914	101.8	102.0	102.8	101.2	102.6	101.9	106.5	102.7	101.7	100.2	102.0	102.0
	1915	98.6	100.9	99.8	100.2	103.4	100.9	104.5	101.7	100.9	98.2	99.9	102.2
	1916	108.5	112.8	108.3	108.3	114.3	111.7	116.3	111.3	110.2	110.1	111.0	112.3
	1917	142.9	152.0	144.8	138.3	151.3	148.9	152.2	144.7	144.1	150.1	146.7	148.1
	1918	169.3	184.1	176.5	162.6	181.4	179.3	172.6	164.5	166.5	171.3	171.5	168.4
	1919	187.4	197.4	195.6	179.6	199.2	195.9	194.8	184.1	182.3	188.4	193.8	188.0
	1920	202.4	207.3	207.4	191.7	213.8	207.6	209.1	197.0	195.4	196.7	204.3	200.3
	1921	150.6	156.3	159.2	147.8	163.7	161.9	157.9	150.6	145.8	141.3	146.0	152.2
	1922	141.0	145.6	145.7	136.5	153.4	149.9	143.4	141.3	135.1	131.4	134.2	141.9
	1923	143.4	152.0	148.1	138.7	155.8	154.4	148.9	142.7	139.2	135.6	137.9	143.3
	1924	144.0	151.8	149.0	140.3	153.2	152.4	150.0	146.2	137.5	137.9	137.4	144.0
	1925	158.4	164.4	159.3	152.8	165.6	164.6	165.0	156.1	149.3	153.8	150.0	155.7
	1926	165.3	167.6	163.9	161.3	170.3	169.4	168.1	155.6	152.8	156.6	152.4	156.4
Estimated cost in 1913:		276.09	244.58	262.78	290.30	250.22	255.55	272.19	271.68	274.42	255.83	268.62	253.01
Ratio of each city to U. S. in 1913:		106.40	94.25	101.27	111.87	96.43	98.48	104.89	104.70	105.75	98.59	103.52	97.50
(b) Estimated by National Industrial Conference Board. Base: 1913 Average for United States = 100													
Indexes based on U. S. 1913 = 100	1913	106.4	94.3	101.3	111.9	96.4	98.5	104.9	104.7	105.8	98.6	103.5	97.5
	1914	108.3	96.1	104.1	113.2	98.9	100.4	111.7	107.5	107.5	98.8	105.6	99.5
	1915	104.9	95.1	101.1	112.1	99.7	99.4	109.6	106.5	106.7	96.8	103.4	99.6
	1916	115.4	106.3	109.7	121.2	110.2	110.0	122.0	116.5	116.5	108.5	114.9	109.5
	1917	152.0	143.3	146.6	154.7	145.9	146.6	159.6	151.5	152.4	148.0	151.9	144.4
	1918	180.1	173.5	178.7	181.9	174.9	176.6	181.0	172.2	176.1	168.9	177.5	164.2
	1919	199.4	186.0	198.1	200.9	192.1	192.9	204.3	192.8	192.8	185.7	200.6	183.3
	1920	215.4	195.4	210.0	214.5	206.2	204.4	219.3	206.3	206.6	193.9	211.5	195.3
	1921	160.2	147.3	161.2	165.3	157.9	159.4	165.6	157.7	154.2	139.3	151.1	148.4
	1922	150.0	137.2	147.6	152.7	147.9	147.6	150.4	147.9	142.9	129.5	138.9	138.4
	1923	152.6	143.3	150.0	155.2	150.2	152.1	156.2	149.4	147.2	133.7	142.8	139.7
	1924	153.2	143.1	150.9	157.0	147.7	150.1	157.3	153.1	145.4	136.0	142.2	140.4
	1925	168.5	154.9	161.3	170.9	159.7	162.1	173.1	163.4	157.9	151.6	155.3	151.8
	1926	175.9	158.0	166.0	180.4	164.2	166.8	176.3	162.9	161.6	154.4	157.8	152.5

Table 4: Index Numbers of Retail Food Prices in 39 Cities and in United States, 1913–1926—(*Continued*)

		North Central Cities										Western Cities					
		Chicago, Ill.	Cincinnati, O.	Cleveland, O.	Detroit, Mich.	Indianapolis, Ind.	Kansas City, Mo.	Milwaukee, Wis.	Minneapolis, Minn.	Omaha, Neb.	St. Louis, Mo.	Denver, Colo.	Los Angeles, Cal.	Portland, Ore.	Salt Lake City	San Francisco	Seattle, Wash.
Aggregate cost of 43 articles at 1926 prices; United States budget		419.89	400.97	417.03	411.78	394.57	402.02	382.56	380.96	399.25	399.61	377.33	412.91	381.63	374.99	410.13	393.63
		(a) Compiled by U. S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. Base: 1913 Average for Each City = 100															
Indexes: 1913 = 100	1913	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
	1914	102.4	101.4	102.3	103.1	102.0	102.5	102.9	102.6	103.7	103.7	100.7	101.2	100.0	102.4	101.1	100 2
	1915	102.5	98.6	100.3	100.9	100.0	102.5	101.4	101.2	102.3	101.4	102.6	95.3	97.6	102.7	101.3	99.1
	1916	113.8	112.2	113.9	114.3	113.8	114.4	115.1	113.6	114.7	113.8	111.7	102.0	103.9	111.3	105.5	105.1
	1917	147.7	148.5	150.0	152.3	149.3	149.9	153.6	148.1	149.9	153.2	144.1	125.0	131.9	141.1	129.7	134.9
	1918	166.3	166.5	166.7	173.3	163.3	167.8	168.9	163.8	168.5	173.1	166.9	148.7	157.4	155.8	156.0	162.1
	1919	185.7	184.8	186.6	193.5	183.8	186.9	191.5	188.4	190.9	192.3	184.0	163.8	173.0	171.4	170.6	178.8
	1920	207.3	203.3	207.7	215.2	202.3	206.1	209.1	207.7	209.8	212.9	194.9	183.5	187.0	184.8	189.1	189.8
	1921	155.0	153.6	150.0	155.1	147.0	152.6	153.2	149.2	150.7	153.1	141.5	142.6	137.5	136.3	147.2	140.0
	1922	144.5	140.3	136.7	144.7	135.0	137.2	141.8	139.9	139.2	141.0	129.1	135.3	130.4	122.5	138.6	135.7
	1923	152.0	143.5	145.4	152.2	142.1	140.7	147.7	143.8	141.7	145.2	135.1	139.9	132.9	127.1	142.3	138.3
	1924	154.5	142.4	144.6	150.9	141.2	141.3	149.4	143.0	142.4	146.7	134.0	140.9	134.2	127.0	143.6	139.0
	1925	166.4	156.8	156.2	164.6	151.1	155.1	156.5	154.3	155.1	159.6	142.8	148.5	141.7	139.7	155.3	149.6
	1926	171.1	162.6	161.7	169.3	157.0	157.9	162.5	158.6	158.5	163.6	144.4	146.4	140.3	135.3	153.4	147.4
Estimated cost in 1913:		245.41	246.60	257.91	243.23	251.32	254.60	235.42	240.20	251.89	244.26	261.31	282.04	272.01	277.15	267.36	267.05
Ratio of each city to U. S. in 1913:		94.57	95.03	99.39	93.73	96.85	98.12	90.72	92.57	97.07	94.13	100.70	108.69	104.82	106.81	103.03	102.91
		(b) Estimated by National Industrial Conference Board. Base: 1913 Average for United States = 100															
Indexes based on U. S. 1913 = 100	1913	94.6	95.0	99.4	93.7	96.9	98.1	90.7	92.6	97.1	94.1	100.7	108.7	104.8	106.8	103.0	102.9
	1914	96.8	96.4	101.7	96.6	98.8	100.6	93.4	95.0	100.7	97.6	101.4	110.0	104.8	109.4	104.2	103.1
	1915	96.9	93.7	99.7	94.6	96.9	100.6	92.0	93.7	99.3	95.4	103.3	103.6	102.3	109.7	104.4	102.0
	1916	107.6	106.6	113.2	107.1	110.2	112.2	104.4	105.2	111.3	107.1	112.5	110.9	108.9	118.9	108.7	108.2
	1917	139.7	141.1	149.1	142.8	144.6	147.1	139.3	137.1	145.5	144.2	145.1	135.9	138.3	150.7	133.6	138.8
	1918	157.3	158.2	165.7	162.4	158.2	164.6	153.2	151.6	163.6	162.9	168.1	161.6	165.0	166.4	160.7	166.8
	1919	175.6	175.6	185.5	181.4	178.0	183.4	173.7	174.4	185.3	181.0	185.3	178.0	181.3	183.1	175.8	184.0
	1920	196.0	193.2	206.4	201.7	195.9	202.2	189.7	192.3	203.7	200.4	196.3	199.4	196.0	197.4	194.8	195.3
	1921	146.6	146.0	149.1	145.4	142.4	149.7	139.0	138.1	146.3	144.1	142.5	155.0	144.1	145.6	151.7	144.1
	1922	136.7	133.3	135.9	135.6	130.7	134.6	128.6	129.5	135.1	132.7	130.0	147.1	136.7	130.8	142.8	139.6
	1923	143.7	136.4	144.5	142.7	137.6	138.1	134.0	133.1	137.5	136.7	136.0	152.1	139.3	135.8	146.6	142.3
	1924	146.1	135.3	143.7	141.4	136.8	138.6	135.5	132.4	138.2	138.1	134.9	153.1	140.7	135.6	148.0	143.0
	1925	157.4	149.0	155.2	154.3	146.3	152.2	142.0	142.8	150.6	150.2	143.8	161.4	148.5	149.2	160.0	154.0
	1926	161.8	154.5	160.7	158.7	152.1	154.9	147.4	146.9	153.9	154.0	145.4	159.1	147.1	144.5	158.0	151.7

Chart 2: Cost of Food in Various Cities

(National Industrial Conference Board)



the same order. At the outset of the period, some of them were relatively high-cost communities and some low-cost localities, and this of course determines in part but not wholly the present relation of one to another.

By placing side by side the index numbers and the actual prices, it is possible to translate one into terms of the other very simply. Furthermore, the chart shows for the year 1926 the relation of these cities to one another on the basis not only of the United States budget, but also on the basis of each regional budget. The latter are arranged on the chart in the order of increasing costs, the minimum expenditure being required by the budget of the South Atlantic region and the maximum expenditure by the budget of the North Atlantic.

The main result of this exhaustive analysis of the food prices published by the United States Bureau of Labor Statistics is to show the variations in the cost of living between different places so far as they relate to food; and so far as they represent not the choice of articles consumed, but solely the price element, they are comparatively unimportant. To revert to the discussion of the preceding chapter, it is therefore clear that whatever differences may exist between the cost of living in one place as compared with another depend very largely upon what people buy rather than what they pay for it. In other words, these differences are due to differences in standards of living, rather than to differences in price. It is true that the concrete demonstration has been confined to the food element only and that the food element represents among the wage-earning classes less than half the total expenditure and among persons of higher income a still smaller percentage of the aggregate. There is no reason, however, to suppose that, if it were possible to make equally exact comparisons of the prices of some of the other elements in the cost of living, such as are included under the groups clothing and sundries, a different result would be obtained. It appears to be true that despite the vast extent of the United States and the dissimilarity between different regions, the country is substantially one economic unit within which there is comparatively little variation in price.

As suggested in the preceding chapter, the variations in price from one period to another are of far greater economic

significance than those from place to place. The means adopted by the National Industrial Conference Board to measure the changes in retail prices, which are indicative of changes in the cost of living, will be described in the following chapter.

CHAPTER III

THE COST OF LIVING INDEX OF THE NATIONAL INDUSTRIAL CONFERENCE BOARD

THE investigations of the National Industrial Conference Board were the first to establish a continuous index of retail prices showing changes in the cost of living. The nature of the task undertaken has determined the original form and present procedure. It has already been explained in Chapter I that the problems of such an index were, in the first place, the selection of suitable articles and services for which prices were to be collected; second, the collection of price quotations under conditions that would insure the utmost practicable continuity in the series of prices secured and an area of investigation sufficiently large to represent adequately the country as a whole; and finally, the combination of the prices ascertained in the most effective manner to show changes in the prices of particular commodities, of groups of commodities, and the total of commodities and services chosen to represent the cost of living.

Inception and Development

It was the rapid rise in the prices of commodities after the outbreak of the Great War which led the National Industrial Conference Board in June, 1918 to compile its first index of retail prices, designed to show changes in the cost of living. The purpose of the inquiry was to show how much more the wage earners had to expend in order to maintain the standard of living to which they were accustomed before the war. In the year 1918, an index was computed in June and November, while in the following year such an index was computed in March, July and November. The practice of computing the index three times each year was continued until November, 1925, when a monthly investigation was inaugurated, which has continued to the present time. From

1920 to 1925, summary inquiries, less comprehensive in scope than the regular investigations, were made in each month. Figures for July, 1915, 1916 and 1917 were interpolated in order to form a continuous series of indexes by separate budgets from 1914 to the present time.

Until April, 1922, the indexes were published as of the first of each month and the food figures for the preceding month secured from the United States Bureau of Labor Statistics were included as representative of the current month. After April, 1922, all the figures of the Conference Board were compiled as of the fifteen of the month and the earlier figures were corrected so that all prices would relate to the same date.[1]

In the present volume, the discussion will relate chiefly to the figures resulting from the comprehensive investigation; figures obtained during the earlier period by summary methods for intervening months will be noted merely for reference.

Base Date

The index of the National Industrial Conference Board and, in its first form, that of the United States Bureau of Labor Statistics[2] are based upon the prices of the month of July, 1914, the last year in which pre-war conditions prevailed. It is generally recognized that as a rule a single date is less to be desired than an average figure as the basis for an index number computation. However, in periods in which prices are not subject to unusual perturbations, when in other words they can be regarded as more or less in the state of equilibrium, the use of a single date is justified by the fact that in all probability figures for that date will vary only in the slightest degree from the average of the years or months of which it is a part. So far as retail prices are concerned, this was the situation in 1914, and the selection of the single month, July, 1914, serves as a basis for the index number quite as well as would, for example, an average of the first six months of the year 1914. To this general aspect of the matter a practical consideration must be added. When in June, 1918 the index was established, it was necessary not

[1] For original series, see National Industrial Conference Board, Research Report No. 49, p. 43.

[2] At the present time the figures issued by the United States Bureau of Labor Statistics are based on the average prices of the year 1913.

only to ascertain the prices in that month, but also to establish prices of the same commodities for the base date, July, 1914. The latter task was very difficult, for retail prices are not matters of record in the same sense as are wholesale prices. Their ascertainment for earlier periods is a matter of painstaking research. It would have added little to the value of the returns, while adding vastly to the amount of labor involved, to have extended this research over a considerable number of months.

Basic Budget

The basic budget for an index number of retail prices of the cost of living involves not only the selection of suitable articles and services to be priced, but also their combination in suitable proportions, in technical language, the choice of a weighting for all the articles and services in each of the major groups of expenditure and the proper relative weighting of such groups.

Distribution of Expenditure: Weights

Since there had been no comprehensive investigation of wage earners' budgets showing the relative proportion of the different groups of household expenditure prepared in the year 1914, or in two or three years immediately preceding that date, it was necessary to resort to an estimate, drawn from the most appropriate material then available. This consisted of a comprehensive investigation in 1901 by the United States Bureau of Labor Statistics and a number of later investigations of much more restricted scope which had been undertaken by the same Bureau and by other agencies. These various budget investigations covering the period from 1901 to 1917, which are listed in Table 5, were combined in an average and weighted according to the number of families represented to serve as the basis for the index of the Board.

The figures thus derived are, it is obvious, heavily weighted by the results of the 1901 investigation. The addition of the figures for a few families in 1915 and 1917 does not materially change the result.

It was not practical to secure as a basis for the index number computation a budget applicable strictly to the year

TABLE 5: PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF EXPENDITURES FOR THE PRINCIPAL ITEMS IN THE ANNUAL BUDGETS OF WAGE EARNERS' FAMILIES

Authority, Date, Locality Covered, Number of Families	Food	Housing	Clothing	Fuel and Light	Sundries	All Items
United States Bureau of Labor Statistics						
1901: United States, 11,156 families	43.13	18.12	12.95	5.69	20.11	100.00
1917: New York City, 608 families	45.01	12.91	14.84	4.61	22.63	100.00
1917: Philadelphia, 512 families	43.31	12.04	15.97	4.95	23.74	100.00
United States Railroad Wage Commission						
1915: United States, 265 families	38.0	20.0	15.0	6.0	21.0	100.00
Dallas Wage Commission						
1917: Dallas, Tex., 50 families	45.01	14.51	12.57	9.11[1]	18.80	100.00
Robert C. Chapin						
1907: New York City, 31 families with incomes $1,000 to $1,099	44.7	18.1	15.5	4.5	17.2	100.00
Average, weighted according to number of families	43.13	17.65	13.21	5.63[2]	20.38	100.00

[1] Includes expenditures for ice, telephone, water and laundry, as well as for fuel and light.

[2] Includes Dallas, Tex. Excluding Dallas, the average proportion of the total expenditure for fuel and light is 5.61%.

1914, but merely to secure a budget which can be broadly designated as representing the pre-war standard of living among wage earners.

Articles Priced

The apportionment of the total cost of living among its more important component parts solved only part of the problem of measuring price changes. Equally important was the selection of the articles whose prices were to be collected. In each field, representative articles had to be chosen, and they will be discussed in the following sections under each major group of expenditure. In the index, as finally developed, there are embodied the prices of as many as seventy-seven articles in the three groups, food, clothing, fuel and light. Rent may perhaps be deemed a single quotation, although, as will be explained later, it is a composite of rental prices for somewhat varied accommodations.

The group sundries is represented in some of its subdivisions by a single price, in others by a variety of prices, so that the total number of individual prices which enters into the composite figure is fifty-six. It follows, therefore, that in one form or another and to a greater or less degree according to circumstances, as many as one hundred and thirty-four price series for commodities and services enter into the composition of the final index.

Food

The food index used by the National Industrial Conference Board is that computed by the United States Bureau of Labor Statistics, and is based upon a monthly survey of retail prices of forty-three commodities representative of food consumption. A list of these commodities, together with a discussion of the relation which the articles specified bear to the total annual consumption, is given in Chapter II. There it is pointed out that the figures, though not exhaustive for the entire food consumption of wage earners' families, serve as an adequate representation of the usual food consumption. It will be noted that, in the list given, seasonal fruits and vegetables are omitted. The seasonal character of these articles renders comparable prices at different periods of the year impossible. The omission of such articles may in some degree affect the index of the cost of food as it is calculated from month to month, but has no appreciable effect upon the general level of food prices from one year to another. Here again the assumption applies that the general level of prices exhibited by the group of food articles specifically enumerated is characteristic of other articles of food not included in the list.

The retail food price index is calculated at the present time by the Bureau of Labor Statistics on the average prices of 1913. It is, however, used in the index of the National Industrial Conference Board as a measure of changes in food prices without conversion to the July, 1914 base. So far as can be ascertained, there was no appreciable difference between the price in July, 1914 and for the average of 1913.

The establishment of a food index which dates back to 1913 was accomplished only after numerous revisions and

additions. Only fifteen articles were priced in 1913, to which were added three in the succeeding year and four in 1915. These articles were weighted according to the consumption data secured in 1901, when some 2,567 families were studied. In 1918–1919, a new study of nearly 9,000 families in fifty-one cities was undertaken and a new series of consumption weights was calculated on the basis of an enlarged budget. The weights were sufficiently comparable with the former schedule to permit the new series of index numbers to be linked on to the old, thus giving a continuous series that reflect food price changes from 1913 to date. The effect of the new weighting, however, was slightly to minimize the fluctuations of the index and to intensify the seasonal variations.

Housing

The difficulties in the way of collecting rents for houses of identical kind and quality in different places have already been noted. At the outset, no attempt was made to define an exact housing type. Information was sought rather in regard to "housing such as is usually occupied by wage earners." Later, in 1920, an effort was made to characterize more specifically the type of dwelling for which rents were desired. Since that date, the practice has been to secure the approximate average monthly rent of a house or unheated apartment of four or five rooms with bath, such as is usually occupied by wage earners. Within this description there is, it is obvious, room for considerable latitude. The dwellings for which rents are quoted in the different communities may be cottages, semi-detached houses, two-family houses, separate houses in blocks, flats or tenements. In each community, local usage determines the particular type of dwelling which predominates. The identity of the dwelling type in the different communities is not so important as the consideration that in each community the same type of dwelling should be continuously reported.

Clothing

The preparation of a typical list of clothing and the assignment to each article in the list of its proper relation to the

whole is one of the most perplexing problems of detail which confronts the investigator of changes in retail prices. When the Conference Board first sought to establish its index, there was available a number of lists of articles of clothing assumed to represent the minimum requirements of a wage earner's family, but it was not deemed that any of these adequately represented this group of family expenditures. There was no time in which to make an extensive survey of the subject and an estimate had to be prepared based upon the best information at hand. Accordingly, twenty-five articles of yard goods and wearing apparel were chosen to represent the family requirements, and budgets were constructed to represent the average annual purchases of such articles. Where, as in some instances, a given article of clothing was likely to be used for a period longer than a year, it was represented in the budget not by a complete unit, but by a fraction, representing the period of one year in the purchase of the complete unit.

In the first instance, two budgets were constructed, one of which included a better grade of apparel than the other. It was found that the items, which in 1914 required a smaller outlay, increased in cost more than those of a better grade. The indexes for the combined clothing of both men and women for the months June and November, 1918 and March, 1919 were calculated with reference to this influence of the cheaper grade of clothing and are not averages of the indexes of men's clothing and women's clothing.

The list of clothing items was increased in November, 1918 to twenty-nine and these articles have since been retained in the clothing budgets. The yard goods items are not included in the budget estimates, but are used for comparative purposes only. No children's apparel is included among the articles priced, since special inquiries conducted in 1918 indicated that the ratio of change in children's clothing followed so closely that of the clothing of adults that the collection and tabulation of prices for children's clothing was unnecessary. The clothing items, their 1914 prices, which indicate the standard of goods called for, and the original budgets and expenditure weights are given in the following tables; wherever substitutions have had to be made, they

have been based upon considerations of price, use and comparability of demand:

Wool Yard Goods	*1914 Price*
Serge	$1.00
Poplin	1.50
Broadcloth	2.00
Cotton Yard Goods	
Percale	.07½
Gingham	.10
Longcloth	.12½
Fruit of the Loom	.15
Voile	.25
Hosiery	
Men's	.15
Women's	.25
Knit Underwear	
Men's union suits	.50
Women's vests	.10
Muslin Underwear	
Women's combinations	1.00
Suits	
Men's	15.00
Women's	15.00

Coats	*1914 Price*
Men's	$10.00
Women's	10.00
Shirts and Blouses	
Men's work shirts	.50
Men's work shirts	1.00
Men's negligee shirts	1.00
Women's blouses	1.00
Men's overalls	.75
Shoes	
Men's	3.50
Women's	3.00
Gloves	
Men's dogskin	1.25
Women's cape	1.00
Hats	
Men's felt	2.00
Women's velvet	1.50
Women's straw	1.00

The original clothing budgets, with prices[1] and with equivalent weights, are as follows:

Man's Budget	*1914 Cost*	*Relative Expenditure Weight*
Suit	$15.00	25.6
Overcoat	10.00	17.0
Heavy trousers	3.50	5.9
Two shirts	2.00	3.4
Two work shirts	1.00	1.7
One work shirt	.75	1.3
Three pairs overalls	2.25	3.8
Shoes	9.00	15.3
Eight pairs hose	1.20	2.0
Three sets underwear	1.50	2.6
Two sets underwear	2.00	3.4
Two night shirts	1.50	2.6
Collars and ties	1.50	2.6
Hats and caps	3.50	5.9
Gloves	1.50	2.6
Sundries	2.50	4.3
All articles	$58.70	100.0

Woman's Budget	*1914 Cost*	*Relative Expenditure Weight*
Coat or suit	$15.00	25.8
Wool dress	5.00	8.6
Wool skirt	2.00	3.4
Two cotton skirts	2.00	3.4
Four waists	4.00	6.9
Two house dresses	2.00	3.4
Aprons	.90	1.6
Shoes	6.65	11.4
Hosiery	1.50	2.6
Corsets	2.00	3.4
Three union suits	1.00	1.7
Three union suits	2.25	3.9
Muslin underwear	3.20	5.5
Three petticoats	1.75	3.0
Three nightgowns	2.40	4.1
One straw hat	1.00	1.7
One velvet hat	1.00	1.7
Gloves	1.50	2.6
Sundries	3.00	5.3
All articles	$58.15	100.0

[1] These budgets were carried out on a basis of money cost on separate dates, until July, 1925. For practical reasons at that time the system of expenditure weights was adopted.

Fuel and Light

The fuel and light index is based upon bituminous coal sold for household use, stove and chestnut sizes of anthracite coal, gas and electricity. Since fuel consumption varies in different parts of the United States, considerable difficulty was experienced in determining the importance to be assigned to each type of coal. A thorough examination of the existing estimates led to the conviction that for the United States as a whole the consumption of coal for domestic purposes was about equally divided between bituminous and anthracite coal.

The increasing use of electricity for lighting has rendered necessary certain changes in the original budget. In 1914, the homes of working men were usually lit by gas; and electricity was not recognized in the light index until 1922, when its importance was roughly estimated. In November, 1923 and subsequently, electricity was given a weight of one and gas a weight of two. This weighting is not intended to express merely the relative use of electricity and gas for lighting purposes, but takes into account the increasing use of gas in the kitchen range. In 1918 and 1919, efforts were made to collect information upon gas and electricity from the trade associations in those industries, but the data which they were able to furnish were not in a form which could be used by the Conference Board. After various experiments, in November, 1925, an entirely new system of gathering and computing the figures was devised. Questionnaires were sent to public service commissions and local authorities who were requested to state the net price of 2,000 cubic feet of gas and 20 kilowatt hours of electricity, together with the steps involved in ascertaining the total charge. Similar prices were obtained for 1914, and the index was calculated directly by the comparison of the two prices. This change in method of securing the facts and computing the index involved a slight break in the continuity of the series. It is, however, to be noted that no matter how important the bill from the gas company and electric light company may appear to the consumer, it is after all a very small element in the total budget. Only when marked changes in rates occur would the total budget be appreciably affected.

The list of articles which represent in the index the item fuel and light is, as in other groups, representative rather than comprehensive. Such articles of consumption as wood, coal, oil and natural gas, play only a minor rôle in the expenditures of urban wage earners. To allow for their consumption and to ascertain their price would multiply effort without any compensating gain in the accuracy of the result.

Sundries

The sundries group, second in importance to food in the total budget, presents difficulties in the way of selecting typical items which exceed in number, variety and complexity those encountered in establishing suitable lists for clothing. The group is necessarily composed of a most miscellaneous assortment of goods and services.

At the outset, in June, 1918, the Conference Board was compelled to make arbitrary estimates of the changes in price which the various items comprising the sundries group had undergone. In time, a more standardized list of items to be priced, together with weights for each item, was devised. The discussion in Chapter I failed in its purpose if it did not make clear that in the construction of this group the element of personal judgment plays a larger part than elsewhere. It is believed, however, that the list which follows is sufficiently indicative of the composition of the group to serve as a basis for calculating changes in the price level of the group as a whole. The expenditure weights were calculated after a careful examination of a number of family budgets and were based upon an allowance of $4.25 per week in 1914 of the distribution as follows:

Item	Amount per Week	Expenditure Weight
Carfare	$0.25	5.88
Medical,		
Doctor	.35	8.24
Drugs, toilet articles	.15	3.53
Reading material	.60	14.12
Recreation	.45	10.59
Insurance	.50	11.76
Furniture, furnishings, supplies	.60	14.12
Church, charity, gifts	.50	11.76
Organization dues	.35	8.24
Candy	.10	2.35
Tobacco	.40	9.41
	$4.25	100.00

Methods of Collecting and Combining Current Prices

In computing its index, the National Industrial Conference Board has been guided by practical rather than theoretical considerations. For each major group of expenditure, it has sought to secure the most representative prices and to combine these prices according to the method which best suited the nature and scope of the material and the peculiar circumstances of each group. How this has been carried out in detail can, therefore, best be seen in the study of the chief expenditure groups separately.

Table 6: Number of Reports and Number of Cities Reporting for Housing, Fuel and Clothing since March, 1920

	Housing		Fuel		Clothing	
	Reports	Cities	Reports	Cities	Reports	Cities
Average up to December 1925	496	170	159	59	188	79
1920						
March	355	156	121	44	208	72
July	359	158	115	43	203	75
November	461	167	151	56	166	67
1921						
March	479	165	166	61	200	74
July	467	167	173	62	191	78
November	490	164	179	65	196	77
1922						
March	476	165	179	62	189	70
July	481	168	165	59	186	75
November	471	164	164	60	186	74
1923						
March	470	164	171	63	198	87
July	448	161	171	61	183	78
November	613	181	170	60	170	80
1924						
March	574	178	168	63	194	80
July	568	178	169	63	176	78
November	572	177	169	65	172	78
1925						
March	566	180	165	64	209	93
July	558	179	158	62	203	94
November	549	178	127	53	187	91
1926						
March	486	179	144	61	172	82
July	493	179	163	61	170	81
November	503	179	164	64	167	85
1927						
March	499	177	167	64	163	81
July	490	178	166	62	154	79
November	504	176	166	63	149	79

Under each group a general statement is made of the number and character of the localities in which prices are collected. It will be observed that the index number, like others prepared in this and other countries, applies only to urban wage earners. The obvious reason for this limitation lies in the fact that it applies to industrial workers of whom the overwhelming majority live in urban communities. The agricultural worker and other dwellers in small communities, who often produce themselves a considerable part of the food they consume, do not have the same distribution of money expenditures as those who dwell in cities. A further reason for confining the investigation to the larger cities in the urban group lies in the fact that, for some of the workers in industry, conditions in smaller cities approximate those found in villages and rural communities.

The indexes here published rest upon figures collected in cities throughout the country. The food prices are those collected by the United States Bureau of Labor Statistics for forty-three articles in fifty-one cities throughout the United States. For other items, rent, fuel, and clothing, the number of cities reporting and the number of reports received directly by the National Industrial Conference Board at each inquiry from March, 1920 to December, 1926 are shown in Table 6.

Food Prices

The index number for food used by the National Industrial Conference Board is that computed by the United States Bureau of Labor Statistics, which is derived by a monthly survey of retail prices on some forty-three articles of food in fifty-one cities of the United States.[1] These cities represent the larger[2] cities throughout the United States, though only sixteen of them lie west of the Mississippi River and 64% of the total population of all the cities covered reside in sixteen cities located in the Middle Atlantic and East North Central groups.

Retail prices of food are secured from a variety of types of stores selected by agents of the Bureau, which cater to the

[1] For list of food articles chosen and cities, see Chapter II of this volume.

[2] Butte, Montana, with a population of 41,611 according to the 1920 census, is the smallest city included.

wage-earning population of each city. These include neighborhood stores, downtown stores, and chain stores, some of which give credit and deliver goods and some of which do not. As the character of the locality changes or cooperators drop out, new stores are selected comparable with those formerly in the survey. The number of quotations secured are roughly apportioned to the size of the city covered, an effort being made to secure from twenty to thirty quotations on each article of food in the larger cities and from ten to fifteen in the smaller communities.

Each year, the Bureau forwards to its cooperators three sets of booklets with twelve duplicate questionnaires, together with franked envelopes. The most complete booklet lists forty-one articles; the second calls for prices on fresh milk, butter, eggs and hens, while the third provides an elaborate schedule for bread in order that its price may be reduced to a common weight basis. Each dealer is asked to fill out the questionnaire on the fifteenth of the month for the same grade of articles on which he quoted prices the previous month. Those for which no trade names are given, he may identify by referring to his carbon copy of the previous month.

The prices are actual selling prices which prevail on the fifteenth of the month to which the questionnaire relates. When these questionnaires are received by the Bureau, they are carefully edited for any discrepancies, and necessary substitutions or alterations are made. The average money price for each commodity is secured by a summation of the prices quoted by all the dealers, divided by the number of dealers reporting the price of each article, some 1800 in all. These prices are then weighted according to their importance in the average family budget of 1918 and are related to the average price for the base year 1913.

Rents

In order to ascertain the trend of rents paid by wage earners, questionnaires are sent by the National Industrial Conference Board each month to real estate boards, chambers of commerce, social agencies and to certain individuals who are in close touch with the rental situation of their particular locality. Each cooperator is asked to indicate the

"approximate average monthly rent for a house or unheated apartment of four or five rooms, with bath, such as is usually occupied by wage earners." The quotations of the mid-period of the previous month are always given as a basis of comparison.

During the past two years an average of 499 reports have been received by the Conference Board monthly from 177 cities located in all sections of the United States. Every city having a population of 100,000 or over is included in the survey together with 109 cities ranging in size from 10,000 to 100,000. These cities are distributed as follows: East, 58; Middle West, 64; South, 33; and Far West, 23. The rent figures cover almost one-third of the population of the United States, a somewhat larger coverage than has been obtained for any other of the major expenditure groups which enter into the cost of living.

The index for each city is found by averaging the percentages of change from the previous month, as reported by each cooperator of that city, and linking this average change to the index number of the previous month which is based on July, 1914 as 100. The cities are then divided into four groups on the basis of population, and the average of the indexes of each group is calculated. These group indexes are weighted on the basis of the total population[1] in cities of each class in the United States to form the general index of rents. Inasmuch as rent fluctuations within various parts of a city differ considerably, it has never been thought wise to publish a single index number for each city, though for practical purposes the index for the country as a whole is expressed as a single figure. The index figure quoted for the United States as a whole is not to be applied to any particular locality without reservation. The influence of local considerations may make the index exaggerate or minimize the rent fluctuations of any single city.

Clothing Prices

The retail prices of twenty-nine representative articles of clothing are collected each month by the questionnaire

[1] Weights are based on cities having a population of 25,000 or more. Cities having less are grouped with cities of 25,000 to 50,000.

method. During the years 1926 and 1927, an average monthly return of 164 reports from 81 cities have been received. These cities represent almost entirely such communities as have a population of 25,000 and over, particularly the cities of the Middle Atlantic and East North Central districts.

The clothing and fuel indexes computed by the National Industrial Conference Board are not weighted according to the population. Previous studies[1] made by the Board indicate that, though prices on individual items may vary somewhat from store to store in the same city as well as from city to city, the fluctuations in the total clothing budget follow similar trends throughout the country. An indirect type of weighting is secured by the heavy representation of the cities in the eastern part of the country relative to other divisions of the United States, though the number of reports received from each city has not been maintained as proportionate to the size of the city as it was thought possible in 1925.

The questionnaires call for retail prices on regular stock for the fifteenth of the month. No "cut rate" or "special sale" prices are included. With one exception, no trade names of merchandise are given, the chief means of identifying the grade or quality of the goods are the average prices prevailing in July, 1914, which are indicated on the blanks. The last quotations given by each cooperator are also listed as an aid to maintaining comparability of merchandise. Considerable scrutiny of the returns is necessary in order to detect and eliminate prices which are obviously indicative of goods above or below the standard sought. Whenever a series of prices for any article are quoted by any merchant, a simple average is calculated.

An average price for each of the twenty-nine articles is calculated as the average of all available quotations and the per cent of change from the fifteenth of the previous month is ascertained. These percentages are then linked on to the index of each article for the past month based on July, 1914 as 100. Since only a few of the more important articles which make up the total cost of living are priced each month, indexes for the remaining articles are calculated on the basis of these.

[1] See Research Reports 9 and 14.

For example, the index representative of a wool skirt is based on the average of the indexes of a woman's coat and suit, while that of a pair of trousers is based on the average of the indexes of a man's suit and coat. These computations are not arbitrary, as are those for collars and ties and clothing sundries for men and women which are a fixed percentage of the respective clothing budgets of the previous month, but are based on careful analysis of the materials and market conditions involved for each item. The indexes, with the exception of those for yard goods, are weighted on the basis of an expenditure distribution established in July, 1925.[1] The average of the indexes for men's and women's clothing gives the total index for clothing. No articles of children's apparel are priced, the assumption being made, on the basis of previous studies, that the change of young children's and girls' clothing varies with that of women's clothing and that changes in boys' clothing vary with those of men's clothing.

Fuel and Light Prices: Coal

Three types of coal are included in the National Industrial Conference Board's index of retail fuel prices, namely, stove and chestnut sizes of anthracite coal, and bituminous coal. The monthly questionnaires request dealers throughout the country to quote the prices on such grades of bituminous coal as are most frequently sold for household use in their particular city. It is thus possible that the quotations received for this type of coal may be based on a variety of grades, all of which, however, represent grades used for domestic purposes as contrasted with those which serve commercial needs.

Most of the cities from which coal prices are collected fall in the group having a population of 100,000 or more; thirteen cities only having a smaller population. Moreover, the population of the Middle Atlantic states is most heavily represented, the cities included covering more than fifty per cent of the total population of this section. In June, 1918, the increase in fuel prices was based on the replies to questionnaires from twenty-two dealers in twenty-one cities, together with such information as had been compiled by others. Now an average of 159 reports from sixty-three cities is the usual

[1] See p. 55 of this volume.

monthly basis for the fuel index. All these cities are included in the rent survey and practically all of them form part of the clothing survey list.

The prices of each variety of coal in each city are totaled separately for the current and immediately preceding month and the percentage of change is ascertained. The index for each city is obtained by linking the percentage of change to the index of the preceding month. Though the cities are divided into four groups, representing four geographical divisions, and a linked index is computed for each division, the total index is not weighted according to population except in so far as the number of reports received from each section of the country gives an indirect form of weighting. The prices quoted for each type of coal throughout the United States are totaled for the two months which are being compared and the percentage of change is computed for each grade. The average percentage of change in stove and chestnut anthracite[1] is averaged with the percentage of change in bituminous to secure the percentage of change for all three grades combined. This percentage is linked on to the index number for fuel of the preceding month to obtain a combined fuel index for the current month as compared with July, 1914.

Prices for Gas and Electricity

In measuring the changes in the cost of gas and electricity, it has been assumed that 2,000 cubic feet of gas and 20 kilowatt hours of electricity per month represent the average amount used by wage-earning consumers in 1914. The efforts to ascertain the cost of identical quantities of gas and electricity on different dates have been beset with numerous difficulties. The last few years have witnessed many changes in the methods of calculating the consumption of gas and electricity. Step-rates, coal charges, area bases, demand charges and other unique systems have been introduced.[2] The present questionnaires of the Conference Board request information regarding the net rate per 1,000 cubic feet of gas and per kilowatt hour of electricity together with any extra

[1] Where anthracite coal is used for domestic purposes, about equal quantities of stove and chestnut are consumed.

[2] See "Cost of Living in the United States, 1914–1926," *op. cit.*, pp. 48–49.

charges which may be involved in securing the total quantities of average monthly consumption.

Questionnaires are distributed in January and June of each year to public service commissions, mayors, and private utilities in 145 cities having a population of at least 50,000. Fifty-seven of these cities are located in the East; 42 in the Middle West; 33 in the South; and 13 in the Far West.

An index number for each city for gas and electricity is calculated directly from the 1914 figures. The sum of the indexes of each of the four groups of cities which have been classified on the basis of population is divided by the number of cities reporting for each group to find the average group index. These are weighted according to the importance of the group based on population. The index for electricity is then weighted by two and gas by one and the sum of the weighted indexes divided by the sum of the weights to obtain the combined index for gas and electricity.

The combined index for fuel and light is obtained by weighting the fuel index by 3.7 and the light index by 1.9, based on the importance of the items in the total budget, and dividing the sum of the weighted index by the sum of the weights.

Prices of Sundry Articles and Services

The wide range of goods and services which may be included in the group of miscellaneous items in any cost of living budget makes measurement of this important item difficult. The freedom of choice for indulgence of individual taste is greater in this group than in any other, and standardization becomes correspondingly difficult. The selection of items representative of a larger group is necessarily arbitrary and varies with different agencies.[1] The National Industrial Conference Board has chosen eleven groups with a varying number of goods and services in each group as sufficiently representative of the expenditures on miscellaneous items.

The difficulties confronted in the measurement of changes in four of these groups—physicians' fees, motion picture admittance charges, organization dues, and candy prices—have

[1] For items of U. S. Bureau of Labor Statistics see *Ibid.*, pp. 75–76.

led to the practice of ascertaining in detail the price changes at somewhat larger intervals, and using the results so obtained as a fixed quantity until the next special inquiry is made. Thus since November, 1925, a fixed figure has been used for these groups. Investigations were made previous to this date in an effort to obtain regular channels of information for these items, but the results were unsatisfactory. The returns, however, were sufficient to permit an estimate of the increase over the year 1914.

Carfare: Changes in carfare rates in 288[1] cities of the United States having a population of at least 25,000 in 1920, are obtained from monthly bulletins issued by the American Electric Railway Association. The various changes that have been made since 1914 in carfare rate systems have rendered this item difficult to measure. Tokens or tickets at reduced rates have replaced cash fares; zone limits have been devised or abolished; transfers added free or with a charge, or the privilege of transferring has been completely denied. These comprise a few of the obstacles to measurements of price changes in this item. The National Industrial Conference Board has found it necessary, therefore, to base its calculation on a number of assumptions; first, that where tokens or tickets are issued, they will be used; second, that transfers are not used; and third, that an average ride within a city involves but one zone.

The cities are grouped into five divisions on the basis of population, and an index for each city is calculated directly from the 1914 figure. The average index for each group is multiplied by the population weight of that group, and the sum of these products divided by the sum of the weights gives the index for the country as a whole.

Drugs and Toilet Goods: Eleven items are included in this group for which prices are obtained each month from the New York office of a large chain-store concern. The price of each article is weighted arbitrarily according to its estimated importance in the 1914 budget, and the percentage of change between the total weighted prices of the current and preceding month is linked on to the index of the preceding month.

[1] Dropped to 284 by the end of 1927 because of discontinuance of service in four cities.

Reading Material: The index for this item is derived by finding the percentage of change between two consecutive months between the aggregate retail price of twenty-five weekly and monthly magazines and by linking this figure to the index of the preceding month. These prices are secured each month from the *American News Trade Journal* and represent newsstand or street sale prices throughout the United States.

Insurance and *Church* and *Charity* contributions have been estimated in such a way as to maintain these expenditures at a point equivalent to the pre-war purchasing value of the amounts assigned to these items in 1914.

Household Furnishings: This index is made up from the information secured on the clothing questionnaires. Actual prices are secured on the five types of yard goods, taken as representative of household draperies and supplies, but for brooms and brushes, china and crockery, glassware, kitchen utensils, carpets and rugs, and furniture, the merchants are requested to estimate the percentage of change in retail prices of each of these groups since the preceding month. The percentages are averaged for each group and each group percentage is weighted one in a total of ten, with the exception of furniture which is weighted by two and cotton yard goods which receive a weight of three. The aggregate weighted percentage divided by 10 gives the percentage of change for the total group, which is linked on to the index of the preceding month.

Tobacco: Prices of a representative list of cigars, cigarettes and tobacco are secured each month from the New York office of an extensive system of chain stores which operates throughout the United States. The percentage of change in the aggregate cost of these items since the preceding month is linked on to the index of the preceding month to obtain the current index number.

Combining Sundry Items: The indexes of each of the eleven groups having been ascertained, each is weighted by an expenditure weight based on the importance of the item in the 1914 budget,[1] in order to establish the total sundry index for the month.

[1] See p. 57 for weights.

The Total Cost of Living

When the indexes, representative of the price changes of each of the five major groups of items, are calculated, each index is weighted according to its importance in the total budget on the basis of the weights established by the six surveys mentioned in Table 5. As shown in Table 7, each index is multiplied by the weight of its group in the total, and the sum of the products, when divided by 100, gives the final index number of retail prices showing changes in the cost of living since July, 1914.

Table 7: Method of Computing National Industrial Conference Board Index Numbers of the Total Cost of Living

July, 1914=100

Item	(1) Weight in Budget	(2) Index Numbers, December, 1927	Col. 2 x Col. 1
Food	43.1	156	6723.6
Housing	17.7	166	2938.2
Clothing	13.2	171	2257.2
Fuel and light	5.6	163	912.8
Sundries	20.4	173	3529.2
Weighted average of all items	100.0	...	16361.0

In the following chapter the numerical results of the processes here described will be stated, together with some general observations on the significance of the facts thus disclosed. The general acceptance of these results as an authoritative statement of the course of changes in the cost of living rests upon the broad basis upon which the facts are collected and the skill and ingenuity with which they are combined. It will have been observed by the attentive reader that, as in the case of all other indexes of a like nature, there are a number of places in the procedure where the necessities of the case force a resort to estimate rather than enumeration. It will, however, have been noticed that in the main these points at which the strict accuracy of the procedure might be drawn into question, concern matters which from the broad general standpoint of the total cost of living are usually of minor significance. In such minute details, a considerable degree of

error may exist, without appreciably affecting the accuracy of the total result. When a commodity or service represents, as many of them do, only a small fraction of one per cent of total family expenditures, any inaccuracy in the ascertainment of its price changes becomes scarcely perceptible in its influence upon the total estimate.

Although space is lacking here to demonstrate the fact in detail, it may be noted that the index figures of the National Industrial Conference Board are in general trend in substantial accord with those of the Massachusetts Commission on the Necessaries of Life and of the United States Bureau of Labor Statistics.[1] This might be taken as a further guaranty of the accuracy of the Conference Board's work. It is, however, in one sense rather a guaranty of the accuracy of the work of these other agencies, since the work of the Board rests upon a broader basis than do these other inquiries. More important perhaps is the testimony thus afforded that the movements of retail prices affecting the cost of living are in their entirety, as was shown in detail for food in Chapter II, the result of general rather than local causes.

[1] The volume of the Conference Board entitled "The Cost of Living in the United States, 1914–1926" gives not only a detailed account of how each of these indexes is constructed, but also a careful comparison of the results of each index with the index of the National Industrial Conference Board, notes similarities and explains such slight divergence in detail as may be observed.

CHAPTER IV

CHANGES IN THE COST OF LIVING, 1914 TO 1927

IN this chapter, it is proposed to study somewhat in detail the changes in retail prices recorded in the manner described in the preceding chapter. It will be most convenient to fix in mind what has been the general course of prices during the period under review in order to provide a standard by which any deviation of major groups of expenditure and individual articles and services from this general tendency can be measured. Accordingly, the chief results of the computations of the National Industrial Conference Board are presented in Table 8, which gives figures for the total cost of living and for its component groups in every month in which this has been ascertained by a comprehensive investigation.

The General Trend

Table 8 tells a plain story of the course of retail prices in recent years. It shows that on the whole such prices in the early years of the period, 1915 and 1916, continued perhaps at a slightly accelerated pace the upward movement which had characterized such prices in the years before the war. In 1917, this pace was greatly quickened. Wholesale prices rose in this year to a point at which they were nearly double those of 1914. Retail prices, though more slowly, were swept along by this movement. By the middle of the year 1917, they were about one-third higher than in 1914 and in 1918 one-half higher. In each of the following years 1919 and 1920, they increased by about one-fourth of the 1914 prices, so that at their peak, in June, 1920 as shown in the table, they were a little more than double the prices of 1914.

Wholesale prices reached their peak in May, 1920, and by January, 1921 had fallen off by more than one-quarter, and by March, 1921 by more than one-third of this peak price. On the other hand, retail prices did not reach their maximum till June, 1920, and in the following months the decline was by

Table 8: Index Numbers of the Cost of Living in Average American Communities on Specified Dates, July, 1914 to December, 1927, by Separate Budget Items

July, 1914=100

(Source: National Industrial Conference Board)

Date	All Items	Food	Housing	Clothing	Fuel and Light	Sundries
July, 1914	100.0	100	100	100	100	100
July, 1915	100.5	100	100	103	102	100
July, 1916	108.7	111	101.5	120	104	104
July, 1917	131.3	146	105	143	126	117
June, 1918	152.2	162	115	177	135	150
November, 1918	165.0	183	120	193	140	155
March, 1919	160.5	175	122	181	142	155
July, 1919	172.2	190	128	200	142	163
November, 1919	182.2	192	138	235	148	175
March, 1920	194.8	200	149	277	149	183
July, 1920	204.5	219	158	266	166	185
November, 1920	193.1	193	166	228	200	192
March, 1921	168.7	156	171	174	187	185
July, 1921	163.1	148	169	164	179	185
November, 1921	163.0	152	169	161	179	178
March, 1922	154.7	139	165	154	174	174
July, 1922	155.6	142	165	154	174	172
November, 1922	158.4	145	167	160	186	171
March, 1923	159.2	142	170	168	186	173
July, 1923	161.9	147	175	170	176	173
November, 1923	165.3	151	180	174	176	174
March, 1924	162.9	144	185	174	172	174
July, 1924	161.7	143	186	171	166	173
November, 1924	165.2	150	184	173	168	175
March, 1925	165.3	151	182	173	169	175
July, 1925	168.7	160	179	175	165	175
November, 1925	171.8[1]	167	178	176	167[1]	175
December, 1925[2]	171.4[1]	166	177	177	166[1]	176
January, 1926	170.4	164[1]	177	176	166[1]	176
February, 1926	169.5	162[1]	177	176	169[1]	175
March, 1926	168.5	160	177	176	166	175
April, 1926	168.6	162	176	175	162	174
May, 1926	168.0	161	176	175	158	174
June, 1926	167.4	160	176	174	158	174
July, 1926	166.0	157	176	173	158	174
August, 1926	165.3	156	175	173	160	173
September, 1926	166.8	159	175	174	161	173
October, 1926	167.2	160	174	173	163	174
November, 1926	168.2	162	174	173	170	173
December, 1926	168.4	162	173	174	169	174
January, 1927	166.9	159	173	173	168	174
February, 1927	165.2	156	172	172	167	174
March, 1927	164.1	154	172	172	166	173
April, 1927	163.7	154	171	172	161	173
May, 1927	163.7	155	170	171	160	173
June, 1927	164.8	159	169	169	160	172
July, 1927	162.2	153	168	169	160	173
August, 1927	162.0	152	169	170	161	172
September, 1927	162.8	154	168	171	162	172
October, 1927	163.7	156	167	170	163	173
November, 1927	164.2	157	167	171	163	173
December, 1927	163.6	156	166	171	163	173

[1] This figure includes an estimate of changes in the cost of fuel, based on prices of anthracite substitutes.

[2] Beginning in December, 1925, the cost of living index for all months was placed on an identical basis instead of those for March, July and November being on a more comprehensive scale than those for intervening months. The December, 1925 figures are, therefore, strictly comparable with figures for other months in the table.

January, 1921 only about one-eighth and by March, 1921 only one-sixth of the prices recorded in June, 1920. Furthermore, the minimum point for retail prices since the peak price of 1920, reached in March, 1922, was considerably higher than the minimum of wholesale prices which was reached in January of the same year. While for both wholesale and retail prices levels have risen somewhat from the low of 1922, that of wholesale prices relative to pre-war prices has been uniformly lower than that of retail prices relative to pre-war prices, whereas from 1915 to 1920 it was usually higher.

Since the low point of 1922, retail prices have slightly risen, the average of the available indexes for 1922 and the succeeding years having been:

1922	156.2
1923	162.1
1924	163.3
1925	169.0
1926	167.5
1927	163.9

Recent years have therefore shown considerable stability in retail prices affecting the cost of living.

The general course of retail prices here outlined has in the main been followed by each of the major groups into which in this study they are divided. The first group to feel sharply the impetus towards rising prices after 1914 was clothing and at the maximum it reached a point considerably higher than any other group. Since the drop in 1920, this group has shown greater conformity to the average. After clothing, food participated most actively in the rise of prices which followed 1914. Its maximum was reached four months later than clothing and of all the groups it fell most in 1920 and 1921, and compared with the remaining groups has continued at a low level since that time. By reason perhaps of the indeterminable elements in the comparatively important group of sundries, the figures recorded for that group show a somewhat less fluctuation than those for the average.

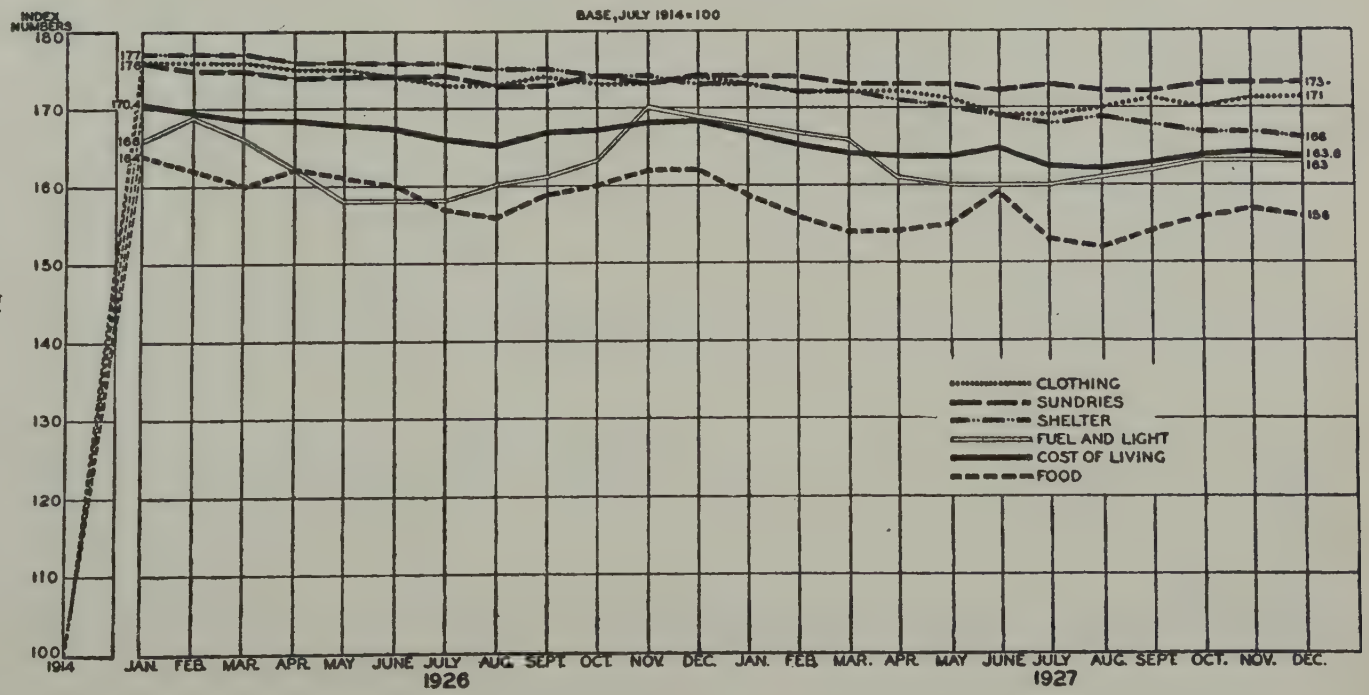
During the entire period, rents stand out sharply from all other groups. They were slow to rise, and at the maximum point in July, 1920, when prices as a whole were double those of 1914, rents had risen only a little more than fifty per cent.

But when in 1920 and 1921 other prices declined, rents continued slowly and steadily upward until July, 1924, although there were some slight recessions in the interval. From this maximum, occurring four years later than the maximum for other groups, there has since been some decline. It is doubtless in this continued rise of rents, after other prices had settled to a lower level than before, that lay the cause of so much discussion of high rents, despite the fact that at no time since 1914 have rents attained prices so high in relation to the former year as did food, clothing and other groups of family expenditure.

Since December, 1925, the available figures have afforded an insight not only into any general tendencies which might be observable, but more particularly into the changes which have occurred from month to month.

The situation in the last two years is made plainer by Chart 3 in which these monthly figures are plotted. An examination of the chart shows that total cost of living has fluctuated between 160% and 170% of the 1914 level. In 1926, it was for the most part in the upper range of this interval, in 1927 in the lower range. It will be observed further that the several major groups of expenditure, except fuel and light, have maintained throughout the period the same general level with reference to the general average and to one another. The lowest level for the period is held by food. This group, moreover, shows somewhat wider variations from month to month than do the other groups. In both years there was some diminution in price in March, and after that a slight rise, which in 1926 reached the high point in April, and in 1927 in June. From this relatively high point there was a decline to the lowest point of the year, which in both years occurred in August, followed by a slight upward movement culminating in November. In no other group is there so clear an approach to anything like a seasonal variation, the tendency for higher winter prices, for example, in the fuel and light group not being so distinctly marked. While the decline of rents has not been great, it has been consistent, and the rent level at the end of 1927 in comparison with 1914 was much nearer the general average level of retail prices than at any time since the rent peak in 1924.

CHART 3: INDEX NUMBERS OF THE COST OF LIVING IN THE UNITED STATES, MONTHLY FROM JANUARY, 1926 TO DECEMBER, 1927



Food

Food, as noted, occupies the largest place in the household expenditure of the industrial wage earner. If, with stationary earnings, food prices rise, the greater cost of the accustomed food consumption may be seriously felt. In like manner, stationary food prices with declining earnings, a situation which happily the American wage earner has not had to face for many years, would produce like inconvenience, discomfort or distress.

Not all price changes in food articles are of equal significance to the consumer. Some articles are used in much larger quantities and absorb a larger part of the total expenditure than do others. The varying quantities are indeed given in previous tables, but the importance of each in the total family expenditure can only be measured by linking these articles and quantities to the unit prices. According to the average prices of 1927, the relative importance of each of the specified articles is shown in the following statement:

Percentage Distribution of Food Expenditures for Total of Specified Articles at 1927 Prices

Meat and Fish	23.4	*Dairy Products and Substitutes*	34.7
Sirloin steak	3.4	Milk, fresh	11.8
Round steak	3.0	Milk, evaporated	2.2
Rib roast	2.4	Butter	9.1
Chuck roast	1.8	Cheese	1.1
Plate beef	0.9	Oleomargarine	1.1
Pork chops	3.3	Nut margarine	0.4
Bacon	2.0	Lard	1.6
Ham	3.0	Crisco	0.6
Lamb	0.8	Eggs	6.8
Hens	2.1		
Salmon, canned	0.7		
Cereals and Products	20.2	*Vegetables*	10.2
Bread	12.3	Beans, navy	0.5
Flour	3.8	Potatoes	6.6
Corn meal	0.7	Onions	1.0
Rolled oats	0.9	Cabbage	0.9
Corn flakes	0.4	Beans, baked	0.2
Cream of wheat	0.3	Corn, canned	0.3
Macaroni	1.1	Peas, canned	0.3
Rice	0.9	Tomatoes, canned	0.4
Fruits	2.5	*Miscellaneous*	9.0
Prunes	0.4	Sugar	2.7
Raisins	0.3	Tea	1.5
Bananas	0.9	Coffee	4.8
Oranges	0.9		

Separate Items

For twenty-two of the forty-three articles which compose the food budget, prices have been collected by the United States Bureau of Labor Statistics since 1913. Table 9 gives the index numbers of the average prices in each year,[1] and the index numbers of the monthly prices from January, 1926 to December, 1927. Chart 4 shows by months the index number of each of these articles of food compared with the average of all the articles.

The detailed figures in Table 9 and the chart show, for the different articles, divergent relations to the 1913 prices and to the general average of all articles. For example, at the peak of average prices in 1920, beef prices were in general considerably below the average. In subsequent years, these prices did not decline in the same measure as prices generally, and notably at the end of 1927 the price level for the better cuts of beef was somewhat above that for all food articles. However, it may be noted that the cheaper cuts of beef did not show as great variation as the more expensive ones. At all times, their price level has more closely approached that of the average. Prices for pork products, bacon, ham, and pork chops, have shown considerable variation, but in recent years their level has been higher above the average than that of the finer cuts of beef. On the other hand, lard since 1921 has been considerably below the average price level. Prices of hens have, in the main, followed the same trend as that of the better cuts of beef.

Dairy products form perhaps as important an item of food consumption as meats. Immediately after 1920, milk prices did not fall so rapidly as others, though at the present time their level has approached the general average. Cheese, while following the same general trend, has usually stood at a higher price level than milk. Butter and egg prices are, as the chart shows, subject to much seasonal fluctuation, and although at times of seasonal scarcity their prices have risen above the general price level, the annual average price level, as shown in the table, has uniformly been lower than the average of all food products.

[1] Monthly indexes for 1913 to 1925 inclusive are given in "The Cost of Living in the United States, 1914–1926," *op. cit.*, pp. 210–217.

Table 9: Index Numbers of Retail Prices of the Principal Articles of Food in the United States, 1913 to 1927

Base Average of Year 1913 = 100

(Source: United States Bureau of Labor Statistics)

Year and Month	Sirloin Steak	Round Steak	Rib Roast	Chuck Roast	Plate Beef	Pork Chops	Bacon	Ham	Lard	Hens	Eggs	Butter	Cheese	Milk	Bread	Flour	Corn Meal	Rice	Potatoes	Sugar	Coffee	Tea	Misc. Articles
Average 1913	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
1914	102	106	103	104	104	105	102	102	99	102	102	94	104	100	112	104	205	101	108	108	100	100	102
1915	101	103	101	101	100	96	100	97	93	97	99	93	105	99	124	126	198	104	89	120	101	100	101
1916	108	110	107	107	106	108	106	109	111	111	109	103	117	102	130	135	113	105	159	146	100	100	114
1917	124	130	126	131	130	152	152	142	175	134	139	127	150	125	164	211	192	119	253	161	101	107	146
1918	153	165	155	166	170	186	196	178	211	177	165	151	162	156	175	203	227	148	188	176	102	110	167
1919	164	174	164	169	167	201	205	209	234	193	182	177	193	174	179	218	213	174	224	205	145	129	186
1920	172	177	168	164	151	201	194	206	187	210	197	183	188	188	205	245	217	200	371	353	158	135	203
1921	153	154	147	133	118	166	158	181	114	186	148	135	154	164	177	176	150	109	182	145	122	128	153
1922	147	145	139	123	106	157	141	181	108	169	129	125	149	147	155	155	130	109	165	133	121	125	142
1923	153.9	150.2	143.4	126.3	106.6	144.8	144.8	169.1	112.0	164.3	134.8	144.7	167.0	155.1	155.4	142.4	136.7	109.2	170.6	183.6	126.5	127.8	146.2
1924	155.9	151.6	145.5	130.0	109.1	146.7	139.6	168.4	120.3	165.7	138.6	135.0	159.7	155.1	157.1	148.5	156.7	116.1	158.8	167.3	145.3	131.4	145.9
1925	159.8	155.6	149.5	135.0	114.1	174.3	173.0	195.5	147.5	171.8	151.0	143.1	166.1	157.3	167.9	184.8	180.0	127.6	211.8	130.9	172.8	138.8	157.4
1926	162.6	159.6	153.0	140.6	120.7	188.1	186.3	213.4	138.6	182.2	140.6	138.6	165.6	157.3	167.9	181.8	170.0	133.3	288.2	125.5	171.1	141.0	160.6
1927	167.7	166.4	158.1	148.1	127.3	175.2	174.8	204.5	122.2	173.2	131.0	145.2	170.1	158.4	166.1	166.7	173.3	123.0	223 5	132.7	162.1	142.5	155.4
1926—January	160.6	157.0	151.5	138.1	119.8	173.8	178.5	198.1	141.1	181.2	156.2	144.6	170.1	159.6	167.9	187.9	173.3	133.3	341.8	121.8	172.1	139.9	164.3
February	159.8	156.1	148.0	138.1	120.7	172.9	181.1	199.3	140.5	182.6	127.0	142.3	169.7	159.6	167.9	190.9	173.3	133.3	335.3	121.8	172.1	139.9	161.5
March	160.2	156.5	151.0	138.1	120.7	177.1	179.3	200.7	138.6	185.0	111.6	139.9	168.3	157.3	167.9	187.9	173.3	134.5	329.4	121.8	172.1	139.9	159.9
April	161.8	157.8	152.5	139.4	121.5	182.4	179.6	202.6	136.1	190.1	111.9	132.9	165.2	156.2	167.9	184.8	170.0	134.5	394.1	120.0	171.5	140.3	162.4
May	163.4	160.5	153.5	140.6	120 7	191.9	182.6	207.8	136.1	192.5	112.8	130.5	162.9	156.2	167.9	184.8	170.0	134.5	352.9	121.8	171.1	140.4	161.1
June	165.4	162.3	154.5	141.9	120.7	200.0	190.7	221.9	143.0	188.7	118.0	131.3	161.5	155.1	167.9	184.8	170.0	134.5	294.1	125.5	171.1	141.4	159.7
July	165.4	162.8	155.1	141.9	119.8	198.6	193.7	226.4	144.9	184.0	122.0	130.8	161.1	155.1	167.9	181.8	170.0	134.5	241.2	125.5	171.5	141.5	157.0
August	164.6	162.3	153.5	140.6	118.2	192.9	192.6	225.7	143.7	177.9	130.1	132.1	161.5	156.2	167.9	181.8	170.0	133.3	211.8	127.3	171.1	141.7	155.7
September	165.0	163.2	154.5	141.9	119.8	202.4	192.2	224.5	141.1	177.5	149.3	137.1	163.3	157.3	167.9	175.8	170.0	134.5	229.4	127.3	171.1	141.5	158.5
October	163.4	161.4	154.5	142.5	120.7	202.9	191.5	222.3	138.6	176.5	168.7	141.8	166.1	157.3	167.9	172.7	170.0	133.3	223.5	129.1	170.8	142.1	160.0
November	161.0	159.2	152.5	141.9	121.5	187.1	188.9	217.1	133.5	174.2	191.3	145.4	167.0	158.4	167.9	172.7	170.0	129.9	235.3	129.1	170.5	141.7	161.6
December	160.2	158.3	152.5	141.9	123.1	177.1	183.7	212.3	129.1	174.6	189.0	154.8	169.2	159.6	167.9	169.7	170.0	128.7	235.3	132.7	170.1	141.4	161.8
1927—January	160.6	158.3	153.0	141.9	124.0	174.3	181.1	211.2	126.6	180.8	162.0	152.5	170.1	158.4	167.9	169.7	170.0	126.4	235.3	136.4	168.5	142.5	159.3
February	161.0	158.7	153.5	141.9	123.1	171.0	179.6	210.8	124.1	180.8	128.1	153.5	170.1	158.4	167.9	169.7	170.0	124.1	223.5	136.4	167.4	142.3	156.0
March	161.8	159.6	153.5	142.5	123.1	174.3	179.3	210.0	122.8	181.7	102.6	154.6	168.8	158.4	167.9	166.7	170.0	124.1	217.6	134.5	165.4	142.6	153.8
April	164.6	163.2	156.1	145.6	125.6	175.7	178.2	210.8	120.9	182.6	98.3	152.5	167.9	157.3	167.9	166.7	170.0	123.0	217.6	132.7	163.8	142.6	153.6
May	166.5	165.5	157.6	146.9	125.6	173 3	176.3	209.3	120.3	180.3	97.4	139.4	167.4	156.2	167.9	166.7	170.0	121.8	264.7	132.7	161.7	142.3	155.4
June	166.9	165.9	157.1	146.9	125.6	165.2	174.4	206.3	119.0	170.4	97.1	135.2	167.4	156.2	166.1	166.7	173.3	123.0	352.9	132.7	160.7	142.1	158.5
July	171.7	170.0	160.1	149.4	126.4	166.2	172.6	203.0	119.0	167.1	107.0	134.2	167.0	157.3	166.1	166.7	173.3	123.0	247.1	134.5	159.7	142.5	153.4
August	172.0	170.9	160.1	149.4	126.4	179.5	172.2	201.9	119.6	166.2	121.7	134.2	167.4	158.4	166.1	169.7	173.3	123.0	200.0	132.7	159.1	142.6	152.4
September	172.4	170.9	160.6	150.0	128.1	193.8	172.2	200.0	121.5	166.2	141.2	139.4	170 6	158.4	166.1	166.7	173.3	121.8	188.2	130.9	158.7	141.9	154.0
October	172.0	170.0	161.1	151.9	130.6	197.6	172.6	199.3	124.1	167.6	164.1	145.4	173.3	159.6	166.1	166.7	173.3	120.7	176.5	130.9	159.1	142.5	156.1
November	171.3	169.5	161.1	153.1	133.9	172.9	171.5	197.0	123.4	167.1	178.8	147.3	174.7	159.6	166.1	163.6	173.3	119.5	176.5	130.9	160.4	142.5	156.5
December	172.8	171.3	163.6	156.9	138.0	156.2	167.8	192.9	121.5	167.6	172.8	152.5	176.5	160.7	164.3	163.6	173.3	118.4	176.5	129.1	161.4	142.1	155.9

Chart 4: Index Numbers of Retail Prices of the Principal Articles of Food in the United States, 1913 to 1927

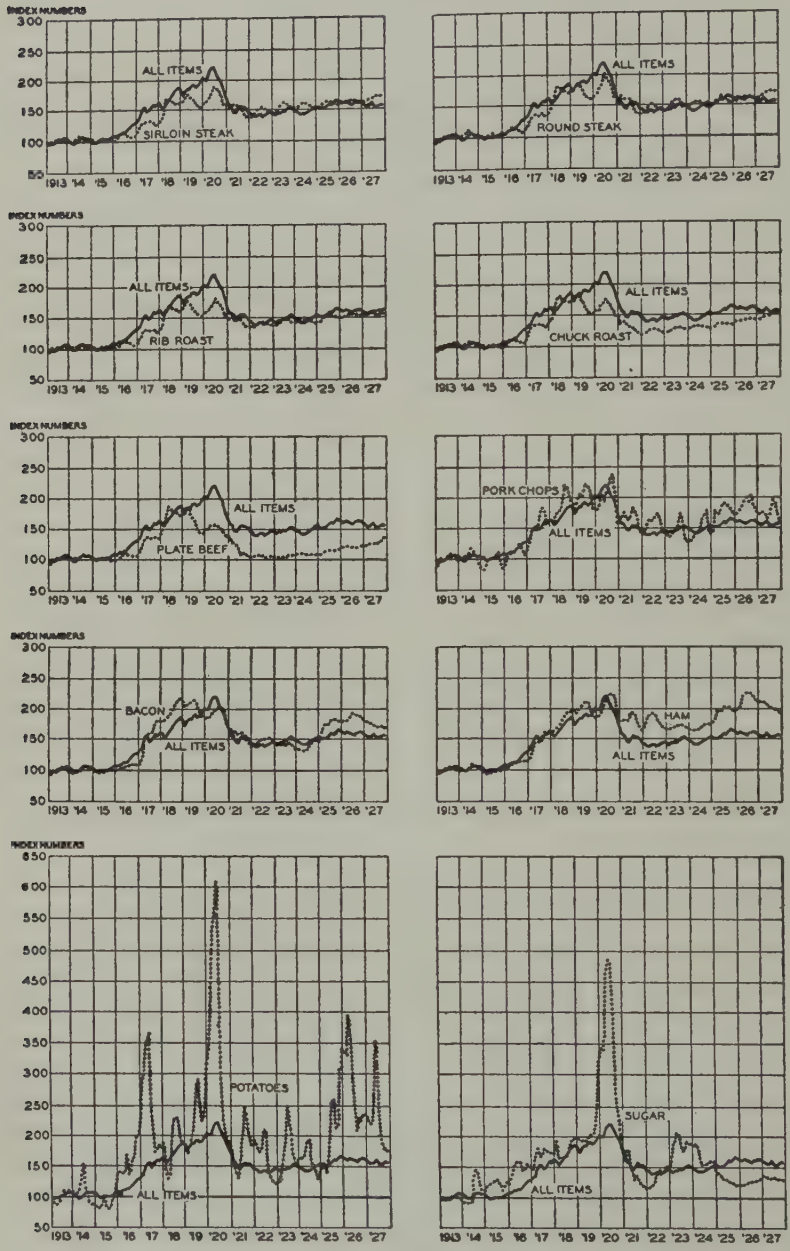
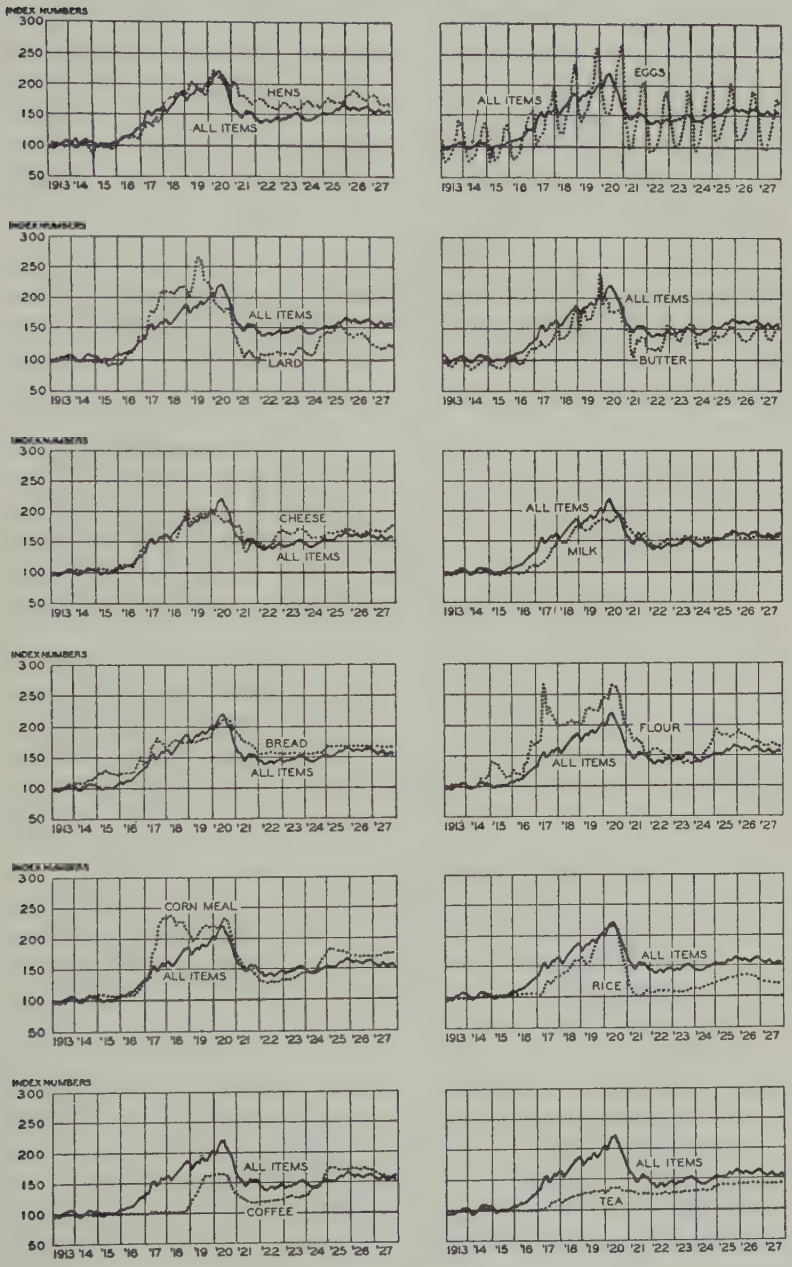


Chart 4: Index Numbers of Retail Prices of the Principal Articles of Food in the United States, 1913 to 1927 (*Continued*)



Next in importance come the cereal products. In the rise in price at the opening of the period both bread and flour, particularly the latter, rose to levels considerably higher than the average. They have declined with other prices since 1920, but still stand at a higher level than the average, with less difference between bread and flour than was observed during the period of rising prices. Indeed, flour has exhibited a greater flexibility in price than bread, the raw material here as elsewhere varying more than the finished product. In some years it has fallen lower than the average of all prices. Corn meal has followed the same general trend as bread and flour, with changes more pronounced than the former, less pronounced than the latter. Rice has throughout the period been a relatively cheap food. Vegetables are represented in this list only by potatoes. Their monthly prices have been subject to violent fluctuations, and their annual average prices have varied considerably. Sugar in 1920 reached higher price levels than any other commodity except potatoes. Its prices have, however, since then subsided to a point considerably below the average level. Tea has in general changed little in price and has been, as a rule, below the average price level. The same was true of coffee until 1925, when its price increased to a point above the general price level. These are, however, articles of comparatively limited consumption which exert only a minor influence on the general level of retail food prices.

Seasonal Prices

An examination of Chart 3 shows plainly the seasonal character of some of the prices included in the index. This is particularly noticeable in the case of eggs and potatoes. Milk, butter and cheese show a milder form of seasonal variation. These prices usually drop in the late spring and stay relatively low until the fall months. While the movement of the index number of retail prices brings out fully these seasonal changes in price and shows their influence upon an unchanged consumption, it does not equally well reflect the price changes in the aggregate of food actually consumed. It does not, perhaps can not, take cognizance of the fact that the food consumption may vary from month to month, in brief,

that in the winter months the consumption of seasonal articles whose prices are high is curtailed, while there may be a more generous consumption of such articles when their prices are low. Through such an adjustment of consumption it is probable that in the actual total cost of living some of the effects of price changes may be softened more than appears in a price index based upon an unvarying consumption.

Housing

Influences which caused the rapid rise of the price of commodities soon after the World War was in full swing were slow to affect the rental of wage earners' dwellings. For other commodities, an international demand was added to the national demand; for housing accommodations there was at the outset of the contest no unusual demand and therefore no rise in price.

Taking the nation as a whole, there was little to increase the normal demand for urban dwellings. The drift towards the city which is characteristic of our time was only slightly accelerated. Even if nothing whatever were done to meet this new demand, if no new dwellings were constructed, there would be in normal times a certain number of unoccupied dwellings and in the first instance the new demand would merely take up this slack. Soon, however, there would be a considerable pressure upon existing facilities, and rents would rise. This in normal times would lead to new building and an equalization of supply and demand. But during the war years building construction was greatly curtailed. New accommodations did not keep pace with demand, and such new accommodations as were provided were constructed at greater costs than before the war and could be profitable only at higher rentals. The older dwellings would of course profit by this situation, but it is also to be remembered that the wartime cost of repairs and upkeep was also greater than before the war. The combined influence of these various factors led to the increase of rents which has been noted. A counteracting force, however, appeared in the latter part of the period under review in the tremendous increase of building operations, particularly of dwellings. There are some

(*Text continued on p. 96.*)

Table 10: Estimated Average Percentages of Increase i to Dece

(National Industri

Cities	Nov., 1918	March, 1919	July, 1919	Nov., 1919	March, 1920	July, 1920	Nov., 1920	March, 1921	July, 1921	Nov., 1921
Akron, Ohio	10 or less	[a]	51–60	71–80	81–90	91–100	61–70	51–60	41–50	31–40
Albany, N. Y.	10 or less	[a]	31–40	31–40	31–40	51–60	51–60	61–70	61–70	61–70
Allentown, Pa.	[a]	21–30	21–30	21–30	41–50	61–70	61–70	61–70	61–70	61–70
Alliance, Ohio	[a]	[a]	11–20	11–20	21–30	41–50	51–60	31–40	31–40	31–40
Altoona, Pa.	11–20	11–20	11–20	11–20	21–30	31–40	31–40	31–40	31–40	31–40
Ann Arbor, Mich.	[a]	21–30	21–30	31–40	31–40	61–70	101–110	101–110	101–110	101–110
Appleton, Wis.	[a]	41–50	41–50	[a]	91–100	111–120	131–140	131–140	131–140	[a]
Atlanta, Ga.	*11–20*[c]	[a]	21–30	21–30	21–30	41–50	51–60	51–60	51–60	51–60
Atlantic City, N. J.	11–20	11–20	41–50	[a]	[a]	[a]	61–70	61–70	61–70	61–70
Augusta, Ga.	[a]	[a]	21–30	21–30	31–40	41–50	51–60	51–60	[a]	51–60
Baltimore, Md.	11–20	11–20	21–30	21–30	31–40	51–60	51–60	61–70	61–70	61–70
Battle Creek, Mich.	[a]	21–30	21–30	31–40	[a]	101–110	101–110	101–110	101–110	101–110
Bay City, Mich.	[a]	21–30	21–30	41–50	41–50	41–50	41–50	41–50	41–50	21–30
Bayonne, N. J.	31–40	31–40	51–60	61–70	81–90	101–110	111–120	111–120	111–120	111–120
Beaumont, Tex.	[a]	[a]	[a]	[a]	51–60	51–60	61–70	61–70	61–70	61–70
Bellingham, Wash.	[a]	21–30	21–30	61–70	61–70	61–70	81–90	71–80	41–50	21–30
Berkeley, Cal.	[a]	[a]	41–50	51–60	51–60	51–60	51–60	71–80	71–80	71–80
Bethlehem, Pa.	[a]	[a]	[a]	[a]	[a]	[a]	[a]	[a]	[a]	[a]
Billings, Mont.	10 or less	10 or less	10 or less	21–30	21–30	31–40	41–50	[a]	41–50	21–30
Binghamton, N. Y.	21–30	21–30	41–50	71–80	121–130	121–130	121–130	121–130	121–130	121–130
Birmingham, Ala.	11–20	21–30	21–30	61–70	[a]	51–60[c]	51–60[c]	51–60	51–60	41–50
Boston, Mass.	10 or less	10 or less	10 or less	11–20	31–40	31–40	41–50	51–60	61–70	61–70
Bridgeport, Conn.	[a]	21–30	21–30	21–30	21–30	31–40	31–40	31–40	31–40	31–40
Brockton, Mass.	[d]	[a]	10 or less	21–30	41–50	41–50	41–50	41–50	31–40	31–40
Buffalo, N. Y.	21–30	21–30	31–40	41–50	41–50	61–70	71–80	71–80	71–80	71–80
Butte, Mont.	[a]	[a]	[a]	[a]	[a]	[a]	[a]	[a]	[a]	*21–30*[c]
Cambridge, Mass.	10 or less	10 or less	10 or less	11–20	21–30	31–40	41–50	41–50	41–50	41–50
Camden, N. J.	[a]	31–40	31–40	41–50	41–50	41–50	41–50	41–50	41–50	41–50
Canton, Ohio	41–50	41–50	61–70	81–90	101–110	111–120	111–120	71–80	51–60	41–50
Champaign, Ill.	*11–20*[c]	[d]	10 or less	11–20	11–20	21–30	21–30	21–30	31–40	31–40
Charleston, S. C.	11–20	31–40	31–40	31–40	31–40	31–40	31–40	31–40	31–40	31–40
Chattanooga, Tenn.	21–30[c]	21–30	21–30	31–40	61–70	61–70	81–90	81–90	71–80	71–80
Chester, Pa.	71–80	71–80	71–80	71–80	91–100	101–110	111–120	111–120	111–120	91–100
Chicago, Ill.	10 or less	11–20	21–30	31–40	41–50	51–60	61–70	71–80	71–80	71–80
Cincinnati, Ohio	10 or less	10 or less	11–20	11–20	21–30	31–40	41–50	41–50	41–50	41–50
Cleveland, Ohio	11–20	11–20	41–50	61–70	61–70	61–70	81–90	81–90	71–80	61–70
Clifton, N. J.	[a]	[a]	[a]	[a]	[a]	[a]	51–60	51–60	51–60	61–70
Clinton, Iowa	[a]	31–40	[a]	[a]	31–40	41–50	41–50	41–50	41–50	41–50
Columbia, S. C.	31–40	31–40	31–40	31–40	31–40	31–40	31–40	31–40	31–40	31–40
Columbus, Ohio	10 or less	21–30	21–30	31–40	31–40	51–60	51–60	51–60	61–70	61–70
Concord, N. H.	10 or less	10 or less	10 or less	11–20	21–30	31–40	51–60	51–60	51–60	51–60
Council Bluffs, Ia.	[a]	[a]	[a]	21–30	[a]	41–50	41–50	51–60	51–60	41–50
Covington, Ky.	[a]	10 or less	[a]	[a]	21–30	21–30	41–50	41–50	41–50	61–70
Dallas, Tex.	11–20	11–20	11–20	21–30	41–50	41–50	51–60	51–60	51–60	51–60
Danville, Ill.	[a]	[a]	41–50	61–70	61–70	71–80	71–80	71–80	71–80	71–80
Davenport, Ia.	21–30	21–30	21–30	41–50	51–60	61–70	61–70	[a]	31–40	31–40
Dayton, Ohio	[a]	21–30	21–30	21–30	31–40	41–50	41–50	41–50	41–50	41–50
Denver, Col.	11–20	21–30	41–50	71–80	71–80	91–100	91–100	91–100	91–100	91–100
Des Moines, Ia.	11–20	11–20	31–40	31–40	51–60	61–70	91–100	91–100	91–100	91–100
Detroit, Mich.	31–40	31–40	31–40	61–70	61–70	81–90	81–90	71–80	61–70	51–60
Dubuque, Ia.	[d]	[d]	[d]	10 or less	41–50	41–50	41–50	41–50	41–50	41–50
Duluth, Minn.	10 or less	21–30	31–40	31–40	31–40	31–40	31–40	31–40	31–40	31–40
East St. Louis, Ill.	[d]	[a]	21–30	21–30	21–30[c]	[a]	31–40	31–40	21–30	21–30
Elizabeth, N. J.	[a]	[a]	31–40	41–50	71–80	91–100	101–110	101–110	101–110	91–100
Elkhart, Ind.	21–30	21–30	21–30	21–30	41–50	51–60	51–60	51–60	51–60	41–50
Elmira, N. Y.	[a]	[a]	[a]	[a]	[a]	[a]	[a]	[a]	[a]	[a]
El Paso, Tex.	*10 or less*[c]	*10 or less*[c]	[d]	10 or less	11–20	21–30	31–40	41–50	31–40	31–40
Elyria, Ohio	[d]	[d]	10 or less	41–50	41–50	61–70	71–80	71–80	71–80	71–80
Erie, Pa.	31–40[c]	31–40	31–40	51–60	51–60	61–70	61–70	61–70	61–70	61–70
Evansville, Ind.	[d]	11–20	11–20	31–40	31–40	41–50	51–60	51–60	51–60	61–70

[a] No report.

[b] The increase since 1914 is an adjusted figure which will not be obtained by applying the percentage of change within the last preceding four-month period to the previously reported increase since 1914.

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nference Board)

rch, 922	July, 1922	Nov., 1922	March, 1923	July, 1923	Nov., 1923	March, 1924	July, 1924	Nov., 1924	March, 1925	July, 1925	Nov., 1925	Dec., 1925
-40	41–50	41–50	61–70	71–80	71–80	71–80	71–80	71–80	71–80	71–80	71–80	71–80
-80	71–80	71–80	121–130	121–130	121–130	121–130	121–130	121–130	121–130	121–130	121–130	121–130
-70	61–70	81–90[b]	101–110	101–110	101–110	101–110	101–110	101–110	101–110	101–110	101–110	91–100
-30	21–30	21–30	21–30	21–30	31–40	41–50	41–50	21–30	21–30	21–30	11–20	11–20
-40	31–40	31–40	41–50	51–60	61–70	61–70	61–70	61–70	61–70	61–70	61–70	61–70
-110	101–110	[a]	[a]	[a]	[a]	[a]	[a]	[a]	[a]	181–190	171–180	151–160
-140	[a]	191–200	191–200	141–150	101–110	101–110	101–110	101–110	101–110	[a]	91–100	81–90
-60	51–60	51–60	41–50	41–50	41–50	41–50	31–40	31–40	31–40	31–40	31–40	21–30
-70	61–70	61–70	61–70	71–80	71–80	71–80	71–80	71–80	91–100	101–110	101–110	101–110
-50	31–40	31–40	31–40	31–40	41–50[b]	41–50	21–30	21–30	21–30	21–30	21–30	21–30
-60	51–60	51–60	51–60	51–60	51–60	51–60	71–80	71–80	71–80	71–80	71–80	71–80
-110	101–110	[a]	101–110	101–110	[a]	[a]	[a]	[a]	[a]	[a]	[a]	[a]
-30	21–30	[d]	*10 or less*[c]	*10 or less*[c]	*10 or less*[c]	*10 or less*[c]	*10 or less*[c]	*10 or less*[c]	*10 or less*[c]	*10 or less*[c]	*10 or less*[c]	*10 or less*[c]
-120	111–120	111–120	111–120	111–120	111–120	111–120	111–120	141–150	111–120	111–120	91–100	91–100
-70	61–70	91–100	91–100	91–100	91–100	91–100	81–90	81–90	61–70	61–70	[a]	[a]
-20	11–20	21–30	31–40	31–40	61–70	91–100	91–100	91–100	91–100	91–100	91–100	91–100
-70	61–70	61–70	81–90	81–90	111–120[b]	111–120	111–120	111–120	111–120	111–120	91–100	81–90
[a]	[a]	[a]	[a]	[a]	51–60	81–90	[a]	81–90	81–90	81–90	81–90	[a]
-20	10 or less	*10 or less*[c]	*11–20*[c]	*11–20*[c]	*21–30*[c]	*31–40*[c]	*41–50*[c]	*41–50*[c]	*21–30*[c]	*21–30*[c]	*21–30*[c]	*21–30*[c]
-140	131–140	121–130	121–130	121–130	161–170	161–170	151–160	131–140	101–110	101–110	91–100	91–100
-30	21–30	11–20	21–30	21–30	31–40	31–40	31–40	31–40	31–40	31–40	31–40	31–40
-70	71–80	71–80	71–80	81–90	81–90	81–90	81–90	91–100	71–80	71–80	61–70	61–70
-30	21–30	21–30	21–30	11–20	11–20	11–20	11–20	11–20	11–20	11–20	11–20	11–20
-40	51–60	51–60	51–60	51–60	71–80	81–90	81–90	91–100	91–100	101–110	101–110	101–110
-80	71–80	71–80	71–80	81–90	91–100	91–100	111–120	111–120	111–120	111–120	111–120	101–110
-30[c]	*21–30*[c]	*21–30*[c]	[a]	[a]	*21–30*[c]	*21–30*[c]	*41–50*[c]	*41–50*[c]	*41–50*[c]	*41–50*[c]	*41–50*[c]	*41–50*[c]
-50	41–50	51–60	41–50	51–60	51–60	61–70	61–70	61–70	61–70	61–70	61–70	61–70
-50	41–50	51–60	61–70	71–80	91–100	101–110	101–110	101–110	121–130	131–140	131–140	131–140
-40	31–40	31–40	51–60	71–80	71–80	81–90	81–90	71–80	71–80	51–60	41–50	41–50
-40	31–40	31–40	61–70	61–70	61–70	111–120	111–120	[a]	81–90	81–90	81–90	81–90
-40	31–40	31–40	21–30	11–20	11–20	11–20	11–20	11–20	11–20	11–20	11–20	11–20
-60	51–60	61–70	61–70	71–80	71–80	71–80	71–80	71–80	61–70	51–60	51–60	51–60
[a]	51–60	81–90	101–110	131–140	91–100[b]	131–140	131–140	131–140	131–140	131–140	121–130	121–130
-80	71–80	71–80	91–100	101–110	101–110	121–130	111–120	111–120	111–120	101–110	91–100	91–100
-50	41–50	51–60	51–60	71–80	81–90	81–90	81–90	101–110	101–110	101–110	101–110	101–110
-60	51–60	61–70	61–70	81–90	81–90	81–90	81–90	81–90	71–80	71–80	71–80	71–80
-60	21–30	21–30	61–70	61–70	71–80	71–80	[a]	[a]	[a]	[a]	[a]	[a]
-50	41–50	41–50	41–50	71–80	141–150	[a]	141–150	141–150	141–150	121–130	111–120	101–110
-30	21–30	21–30	21–30	21–30	21–30	21–30	21–30	21–30	21–30	21–30	21–30	21–30
-70	61–70	61–70	81–90	91–100	111–110	111–120	111–120	111–120	121–130	121–130	121–130	121–130
-60	51–60	51–60	51–60	51–60	51–60	51–60	51–60	51–60	51–60	51–60	51–60	[a]
-50	41–50	41–50	[a]	[a]	81–90[b]	121–130	101–110	81–90	51–60	51–60	51–60	51–60
-70	61–70	61–70	61–70	81–90	101–110[b]	101–110	101–110	101–110	101–110	101–110	91–100	91–100
-60	51–60	51–60	51–60	51–60	51–60	51–60	51–60	51–60	51–60	51–60	51–60	51–60
-80	41–50	21–30	21–30	21–30	61–70	61–70	61–70	61–70	51–60	31–40	21–30	21–30
-30	11–20	11–20	11–20	11–20	71–80[b]	51–60	51–60	31–40	21–30	*10 or less*	*10 or less*[c]	*10 or less*[c]
-50	41–50	41–50	41–50	41–50	61–70	61–70	81–90	81–90	91–100	91–100	91–100	91–100
-100	91–100	91–100	91–100	91–100	91–100	91–100	91–100	91–100	91–100	91–100	71–80	71–80
-100	91–100	91–100	91–100	91–100	91–100	81–90	71–80	61–70	61–70	41–50	21–30	21–30
-50	51–60	91–100	101–110	111–120	111–120	111–120	111–120	101–110	101–110	101–110	101–110	101–110
-50	51–60	51–60	51–60	51–60	51–60	51–60	61–70	61–70	61–70	61–70	61–70	61–70
-40	31–40	31–40	31–40	31–40	31–40	31–40	31–40	31–40	[a]	31–40	21–30	21–30
-30	21–30	31–40	31–40	[a]	[a]	[a]	[a]	[a]	[a]	61–70	61–70	61–70
-100	91–100	101–110	101–110	101–110	111–120	121–130	121–130	121–130	121–130	121–130	111–120	111–120
-40	31–40	31–40	41–50	41–50	41–50	41–50	41–50	41–50	61–70	61–70	61–70	61–70
[a]	[a]	[a]	[a]	[a]	101–110	141–150	141–150	101–110	101–110	101–110	[a]	[a]
-30	21–30	11–20	10 or less	10 or less	10 or less	10 or less	10 or less	10 or less[c]	10 or less	10 or less	11–20	11–20
-80	71–80	[a]	[a]	[a]	[a]	[a]	[a]	[a]	[a]	[a]	[a]	[a]
-70	61–70	61–70	91–100	91–100	71–80[b]	81–90	91–100	81–90	81–90	81–90	91–100	91–100
-70	61–70	91–100[b]	111–120	121–130	121–130	131–140	141–150	121–130	121–130	121–130	131–140	141–150

[b] Decrease.

[c] Corrected figure, based on better information than that originally available. See footnote 1, p. 42, "The Cost of Living in United States, 1914–1926," National Industrial Conference Board.

[d] No change.

Table 10: Estimated Average Percentages of Increase in Rent December

(National Industri

Cities	Jan., 1926	March, 1926	May, 1926	June, 1926	July, 1926	August, 1926	Sept., 1926	Oct., 1926	Nov., 1926	Dec., 1926
Akron, Ohio	71–80	71–80	71–80	71–80	71–80	71–80	71–80	71–80	71–80	61–70
Albany, N. Y.	121–130	121–130	121–130	121–130	121–130	121–130	121–130	121–130	121–130	121–130
Allentown, Pa.	91–100	91–100	111–120	111–120	111–120	111–120	111–120	111–120	111–120	111–120
Alliance, Ohio	11–20	11–20	11–20	11–20	11–20	11–20	11–20	10 or less[a]	10 or less[a]	10 or less
Altoona, Pa.	51–60	51–60	51–60	51–60	51–60	51–60	51–60	51–60	51–60	51–60
Ann Arbor, Mich.	151–160	131–140	131–140	131–140	131–140	161–170	201–210	201–210	201–210	201–210
Appleton, Wis.	71–80	51–60	51–60	51–60	71–80	71–80	71–80	71–80	71–80	51–60
Atlanta, Ga.	21–30	21–30	21–30	21–30	21–30	21–30	21–30	21–30	21–30	21–30
Atlantic City, N. J.	101–110	101–110	101–110	101–110	101–110	101–110	101–110	101–110	101–110	101–110
Augusta, Ga.	21–30	21–30	21–30	21–30	21–30	21–30	21–30	21–30	21–30	21–30
Baltimore, Md.	71–80	71–80	71–80	71–80	71–80	71–80	71–80	71–80	71–80	71–80
Battle Creek, Mich.	[b]	[b]	[b]	[b]	[b]	[b]	[b]	[b]	[b]	[b]
Bay City, Mich.	10 or less[a]	10 or less[a]	10 or less[a]	10 or less[a]	10 or less[a]	10 or less[a]	[b]	10 or less[a]	[b]	[b]
Bayonne, N. J.	91–100	91–100	91–100	91–100	91–100	91–100	91–100	91–100	91–100	91–100
Beaumont, Texas	111–120	111–120	91–100	91–100	91–100	111–120	[b]	[b]	111–120	111–120
Bellingham, Wash.	91–100	91–100	91–100	71–80	71–80	[b]	81–90	81–90	81–90	81–90
Berkeley, Cal.	81–90	71–80	71–80	71–80	71–80	71–80	71–80	61–70	71–80	71–80
Bethlehem, Pa.	81–90	61–70	101–110	81–90	81–90	81–90	81–90	81–90	81–90	81–90
Billings, Mont.	21–30[a]	21–30[a]	31–40[a]	31–40[a]	31–40[a]	31–40[a]	21–30[a]	21–30[a]	21–30[a]	21–30[a]
Binghamton, N. Y.	91–100	91–100	81–90	71–80	71–80	71–80	71–80	71–80	71–80	71–80
Birmingham, Ala.	31–40	31–40	31–40	31–40	31–40	31–40	21–30	21–30	21–30	21–30
Boston, Mass.	61–70	61–70	71–80	71–80	71–80	71–80	71–80	71–80	71–80	71–80
Bridgeport, Conn.	11–20	11–20	11–20	11–20	11–20	11–20	21–30	21–30	21–30	21–30
Brockton, Mass.	101–110	101–110	111–120	111–120	111–120	111–120	111–120	111–120	111–120	111–120
Buffalo, N. Y.	101–110	101–110	101–110	111–120	111–120	111–120	111–120	101–110	101–110	101–110
Butte, Mont.	41–50[a]	41–50[a]	31–40[a]	[b]	31–40[a]	[b]	31–40[a]	[b]	31–40[a]	31–40[a]
Cambridge, Mass.	61–70	61–70	61–70	61–70	61–70	61–70	61–70	61–70	51–60	51–60
Camden, N. J.	131–140	131–140	131–140	131–140	131–140	131–140	131–140	131–140	131–140	131–140
Canton, Ohio	41–50	41–50	31–40	31–40	31–40	31–40	31–40	31–40	31–40	31–40
Champaign, Ill.	81–90	81–90	81–90	81–90	71–80	71–80	61–70	51–60	41–50	41–50
Charleston, S. C.	11–20	11–20	11–20	11–20	11–20	11–20	11–20	21–30	21–30	21–30
Chattanooga, Tenn.	51–60	51–60	51–60	51–60	51–60	51–60	51–60	51–60	51–60	51–60
Chester, Pa.	121–130	111–120	111–120	111–120	111–120	111–120	111–120	111–120	111–120	111–120
Chicago, Ill.	91–100	91–100	91–100	91–100	91–100	91–100	91–100	81–90	81–90	81–90
Cincinnati, Ohio	101–110	101–110	111–120	111–120	111–120	111–120	111–120	111–120	111–120	111–120
Cleveland, Ohio	71–80	71–80	71–80	71–80	71–80	61–70	61–70	51–60	51–60	51–60
Clifton, N. J.	[b]	[b]	[b]	[b]	[b]	[b]	[b]	[b]	[b]	[b]
Clinton, Iowa	101–110	91–100	91–100	91–100	91–100	91–100	91–100	91–100	81–90	81–90
Columbia, S. C.	21–30	21–30	21–30	21–30	21–30	21–30	21–30	21–30	21–30	21–30
Columbus, Ohio	101–110	101–110	101–110	101–110	101–110	101–110	101–110	101–110	101–110	101–110
Concord, N. H.	51–60	51–60	51–60	51–60	51–60	51–60	51–60	51–60	51–60	51–60
Council Bluffs, Iowa	61–70	61–70	61–70	61–70	51–60	51–60	31–40	31–40	31–40	31–40
Covington, Ky.	91–100	101–110	101–110	101–110	101–110	101–110	101–110	101–110	101–110	101–110
Dallas, Tex.	51–60	51–60	61–70	51–60	51–60	51–60	51–60	51–60	51–60	41–50
Danville, Ill.	21–30	21–30	[b]	21–30	[b]	21–30	21–30	10 or less	10 or less	10 or less
Davenport, Ia.	10 or less[a]	10 or less[a]	10 or less[a]	10 or less[a]	10 or less[a]	11–20[a]	11–20[a]	11–20[a]	11–20[a]	11–20[a]
Dayton, Ohio	91–100	91–100	91–100	91–100	91–100	91–100	91–100	91–100	91–100	91–100
Denver, Col.	61–70	61–70	61–70	61–70	61–70	61–70	61–70	61–70	61–70	61–70
Des Moines, Ia.	21–30	21–30	21–30	21–30	21–30	21–30	21–30	21–30	21–30	21–30
Detroit, Mich.	111–120	111–120	111–120	111–120	111–120	111–120	111–120	111–120	111–120	101–110
Dubuque, Ia.	61–70	61–70	61–70	61–70	61–70	41–50	41–50	41–50	41–50	41–50
Duluth, Minn.	[b]	21–30	21–30	21–30	11–20	11–20	11–20	11–20	11–20	11–20
East St. Louis, Ill.	61–70	61–70	61–70	61–70	61–70	61–70	61–70	61–70	61–70	61–70
Elizabeth, N. J.	111–120	111–120	111–120	111–120	111–120	111–120	111–120	111–120	111–120	111–120
Elkhart, Ind.	61–70	61–70	61–70	61–70	61–70	61–70	61–70	51–60	51–60	51–60
Elmira, N. Y.	101–110	101–110	101–110	[b]	101–110	[b]	101–110	101–110	71–80	71–80
El Paso, Tex.	11–20	11–20	11–20	10 or less	10 or less	10 or less	10 or less	10 or less	10 or less	10 or less
Elyria, Ohio	[b]	[b]	[b]	[b]	[b]	[b]	[b]	[b]	[b]	[b]
Erie, Pa.	91–100	91–100	91–100	91–100	91–100	91–100	91–100	91–100	91–100	91–100
Evansville, Ind.	141–150	141–150	121–130	121–130	121–130	121–130	121–130	131–140	131–140	141–150

[a] = Decrease. [b] = No report.

OF WAGE EARNERS' HOUSES IN SPECIFIED CITIES, JULY, 1914 TO 1927—(*Continued*)

Conference Board)

Jan., 1927	Feb., 1927	March, 1927	April, 1927	May, 1927	June, 1927	July, 1927	August, 1927	Sept., 1927	Oct., 1927	Nov., 1927	Dec., 1927
61–70	61–70	61–70	61–70	61–70	61–70	61–70	61–70	61–70	61–70	61–70	61–70
121–130	121–130	121–130	121–130	101–110	101–110	101–110	101–110	101–110	101–110	101–110	101–110
111–120	111–120	111–120	111–120	111–120	111–120	111–120	111–120	111–120	111–120	111–120	111–120
10 or less[a]	10 or less[a]	10 or less[a]	[b]	10 or less[a]	10 or less[a]	10 or less[a]	[b]	10 or less[a]	10 or less[a]	10 or less[a]	10 or less[a]
51–60	51–60	51–60	51–60	51–60	51–60	51–60	51–60	51–60	51–60	51–60	51–60
201–210	[b]	201–210	201–210	201–210	221–230	221–230	251–260	251–260	[b]	251–260	201–210
51–60	51–60	41–50	51–60	51–60	51–60	51–60	[b]	51–60	51–60	51–60	41–50
31–40	31–40	31–40	31–40	31–40	31–40	31–40	31–40	31–40	31–40	21–30	21–30
101–110	111–120	111–120	111–120	111–120	111–120	111–120	111–120	111–120	111–120	111–120	111–120
[b]	21–30	21–30	21–30	21–30	21–30	21–30	21–30	21–30	21–30	21–30	21–30
71–80	71–80	71–80	61–70	61–70	61–70	61–70	61–70	61–70	61–70	61–70	61–70
[b]	[b]	[b]	[b]	[b]	[b]	[b]	[b]	[b]	[b]	[b]	[b]
[b]	[b]	[b]	[b]	[b]	[b]	[b]	[b]	[b]	[b]	[b]	[b]
91–100	91–100	91–100	91–100	91–100	91–100	81–90	81–90	81–90	81–90	81–90	81–90
111–120	[b]	111–120	111–120	111–120	[b]	111–120	111–120	111–120	111–120	111–120	111–120
81–90	81–90	81–90	61–70	51–60	51–60	21–30	21–30	21–30	21–30	[b]	21–30
71–80	71–80	71–80	71–80	61–70	61–70	71–80	61–70	51–60	51–60	51–60	71–80
81–90	81–90	81–90	81–90	81–90	81–90	81–90	81–90	81–90	81–90	81–90	81–90
21–30[a]	21–30[a]	11–20[a]	11–20[a]	21–30[a]	10 or less[a]	10 or less[a]	10 or less[a]	10 or less[a]	10 or less[a]	10 or less[a]	10 or less
71–80	71–80	71–80	71–80	71–80	71–80	71–80	71–80	71–80	71–80	71–80	71–80
21–30	21–30	21–30	21–30	21–30	21–30	21–30	21–30	21–30	21–30	21–30	11–20
71–80	71–80	71–80	71–80	71–80	71–80	71–80	71–80	81–90	81–90	81–90	71–80
21–30	21–30	21–30	21–30	21–30	21–30	21–30	21–30	21–30	21–30	21–30	21–30
111–120	111–120	111–120	111–120	111–120	111–120	111–120	111–120	111–120	111–120	111–120	111–120
101–110	101–110	101–110	101–110	101–110	101–110	101–110	101–110	101–110	101–110	101–110	101–110
[b]	[b]	[b]	31–40[a]	31–40[a]	31–40[a]	31–40[a]	[b]	31–40[a]	[b]	31–40[a]	31–40[a]
51–60	51–60	51–60	51–60	61–70	61–70	61–70	61–70	61–70	61–70	51–60	41–50
131–140	131–140	131–140	131–140	131–140	131–140	131–140	131–140	131–140	131–140	131–140	111–120
31–40	31–40	31–40	31–40	31–40	31–40	31–40	31–40	31–40	31–40	21–30	21–30
41–50	41–50	31–40	31–40	31–40	31–40	31–40	31–40	31–40	31–40	31–40	21–30
21–30	21–30	31–40	31–40	31–40	31–40	31–40	31–40	31–40	31–40	31–40	31–40
51–60	51–60	51–60	51–60	51–60	51–60	51–60	51–60	51–60	51–60	51–60	51–60
111–120	111–120	111–120	111–120	111–120	111–120	111–120	111–120	111–120	111–120	111–120	111–120
81–90	81–90	81–90	81–90	81–90	81–90	81–90	81–90	81–90	81–90	81–90	81–90
111–120	111–120	111–120	101–110	101–110	101–110	101–110	101–110	101–110	101–110	101–110	101–110
51–60	51–60	51–60	51–60	51–60	51–60	51–60	51–60	51–60	51–60	51–60	51–60
[b]	[b]	[b]	[b]	[b]	[b]	[b]	[b]	[b]	[b]	[b]	[b]
81–90	81–90	81–90	81–90	81–90	81–90	81–90	81–90	81–90	81–90	81–90	81–90
21–30	21–30	21–30	21–30	21–30	21–30	21–30	21–30	21–30	21–30	21–30	21–30
101–110	101–110	101–110	91–100	91–100	91–100	91–100	81–90	81–90	81–90	81–90	71–80
51–60	51–60	51–60	51–60	51–60	51–60	[b]	51–60	51–60	51–60	51–60	51–60
31–40	31–40	31–40	31–40	31–40	31–40	31–40	31–40	31–40	31–40	31–40	10 or less
101–110	91–100	91–100	91–100	91–100	91–100	91–100	91–100	91–100	91–100	91–100	91–100
31–40	31–40	31–40	31–40	31–40	31–40	21–30	21–30	21–30	21–30	21–30	21–30
10 or less[a]	10 or less[a]	11–20[a]	11–20[a]	11–20[a]	21–30[a]	21–30[a]	21–30[a]	21–30[a]	21–30[a]	21–30[a]	21–30[a]
11–20[a]	11–20[a]	11–20[a]	11–20[a]	11–20[a]	11–20[a]	11–20[a]	11–20[a]	11–20[a]	11–20[a]	11–20[a]	11–20[a]
91–100	91–100	91–100	91–100	91–100	91–100	91–100	91–100	91–100	91–100	81–90	81–90
61–70	61–70	51–60	51–60	51–60	51–60	51–60	51–60	51–60	51–60	51–60	51–60
11–20	11–20	11–20	11–20	11–20	11–20	11–20	11–20	11–20	11–20	11–20	11–20
101–110	101–110	101–110	101–110	91–100	91–100	91–100	91–100	91–100	91–100	81–90	81–90
41–50	41–50	31–40	31–40	31–40	31–40	31–40	31–40	31–40	31–40	31–40	31–40
11–20	11–20	11–20	11–20	10 or less	10 or less	10 or less	10 or less	10 or less	10 or less	10 or less	10 or less
51–60	51–60	51–60	51–60	51–60	51–60	51–60	51–60	51–60	51–60	51–60	51–60
121–130	121–130	121–130	121–130	121–130	111–120	111–120	111–120	111–120	111–120	101–110	101–110
51–60	51–60	51–60	51–60	51–60	51–60	51–60	51–60	51–60	51–60	51–60	51–60
71–80	71–80	71–80	71–80	71–80	71–80	71–80	61–70	[b]	61–70	61–70	61–70
10 or less	10 or less	10 or less	10 or less	10 or less	10 or less	10 or less	10 or less	10 or less	10 or less	10 or less	10 or less
[b]	[b]	[b]	[b]	[b]	[b]	[b]	[b]	[b]	[b]	[b]	[b]
91–100	91–100	91–100	91–100	91–100	91–100	91–100	91–100	91–100	91–100	91–100	101–110
141–150	141–150	141–150	141–150	141–150	[b]	141–150	141–150	141–150	141–150	141–150	141–150

Table 10: Estimated Average Percentages of Increase in to December,

(National Industrial

Cities	Nov., 1918	March, 1919	July, 1919	Nov., 1919	March, 1920	July, 1920	Nov., 1920	March, 1921	July, 1921	Nov., 1921
Everett, Wash.	10 or less	10 or less	11–20	21–30	21–30	21–30	21–30	21–30	21–30	11–20
Fall River, Mass.	[a]	[a]	11–20	11–20	21–30	21–30	31–40	31–40	31–40	31–40
Fayetteville, N. C.	[a]	[a]	[a]	[a]	[a]	[a]	[a]	51–60	51–60	41–50
Flint, Mich.	51–60	[a]	61–70	71–80	101–110	121–130	71–80	31–40	21–30	21–30
Fort Wayne, Ind.	21–30	21–30	21–30	31–40	41–50	61–70	61–70	61–70	51–60	51–60
Fort Worth, Tex.	[a]	41–50	41–50	61–70	71–80	71–80	71–80	71–80	51–60	51–60
Gary, Ind.	21–30	21–30	21–30	21–30	21–30	41–50	61–70	61–70	51–60	31–40
Geneva, N. Y.	10 or less	10 or less	10 or less	21–30	21–30	21–30	21–30	21–30	21–30	21–30
Grand Rapids, Mich.	[d]	[d]	[d]	21–30	31–40	31–40	41–50	41–50	41–50	41–50
Great Falls, Mont.	[d]	[d]	[d]	10 or less	11–20	[d]	[d]	[d]	[d]	*11–20*[c]
Hamilton, Ohio	[a]	[a]	[a]	[a]	[a]	41–50	51–60	51–60	51–60	41–50
Harrisburg, Pa.	[a]	[a]	11–20	21–30	31–40	41–50	51–60	51–60	51–60	51–60
Hartford, Conn.	11–20	21–30	21–30	21–30	21–30	21–30	31–40	31–40	31–40	31–40
Haverhill, Mass.	[a]	[a]	[a]	[a]	[a]	[a]	[a]	[a]	[a]	[a]
Hoboken, N. J.		[a]	31–40	31–40	[a]	[a]	41–50	61–70	61–70	61–70
Holyoke, Mass.	[a]	11–20	11–20	11–20	21–30	41–50	61–70	61–70	61–70	61–70
Hoquiam, Wash.	11–20	11–20	[a]	51–60	51–60	51–60	61–70	61–70	41–50	31–40
Houston, Tex.	[a]	[a]	11–20	21–30	31–40	51–60	61–70	61–70	61–70	61–70
Huntington, W. Va.	[a]	[a]	[a]	[a]	[a]	[a]	[a]	[a]	[a]	[a]
Indianapolis, Ind.	[d]	[d]	10 or less	10 or less	21–30	21–30	31–40	31–40	31–40	31–40
Jackson, Mich.	[a]	11–20	11–20	41–50	71–80	71–80	71–80	71–80	71–80	41–50
Jacksonville, Fla.	[a]	[a]	51–60	[a]	[a]	91–100	91–100	91–100	61–70	61–70
Jersey City, N. J.	11–20	11–20	21–30	21–30	41–50	51–60	61–70	61–70	61–70	61–70
Johnstown, Pa.	[a]	[a]	41–50	41–50	51–60	71–80	91–100	91–100	91–100	91–100
Kalamazoo, Mich.	[a]	[a]	[a]	[a]	[a]	41–50	61–70	61–70	31–40	[a]
Kansas City, Kan.	[a]	[a]	21–30	21–30	31–40	[a]	81–90	81–90	81–90	81–90
Kansas City, Mo.	[d]	[d]	21–30	31–40	31–40	51–60	51–60	51–60	41–50	41–50
Kenosha, Wis.	31–40	31–40	41–50	61–70	71–80	101–110	101–110	101–110	71–80	81–90
Knoxville, Tenn.	11–20	[a]	21–30	31–40	31–40	51–60	71–80	71–80	71–80	71–80
Lafayette, Ind.	[a]	[a]	11–20	21–30	31–40	31–40	61–70	71–80	71–80	71–80
Lancaster, Pa.	[a]	21–30	21–30	31–40	31–40	31–40	31–40	31–40	31–40	21–30
Lansing, Mich.	11–20	11–20	[a]	[a]	51–60	[a]	41–50	31–40	31–40	[a]
Lawrence, Mass.	[a]	[a]	[a]	31–40	31–40	51–60	61–70[c]	61–70	61–70	61–70
Lincoln, Neb.	10 or less	11–20	31–40	41–50	41–50	61–70	71–80	71–80	71–80	71–80
Little Rock, Ark.	[a]	*10 or less*[c]	[a]	[a]	61–70	81–90	81–90	81–90	71–80	71–80
Los Angeles, Cal.	10 or less	11–20	11–20	71–80	121–130	171–180	201–210	151–160[c]	121–130	131–140
Louisville, Ky.	10 or less	10 or less	11–20	41–50	51–60	71–80	81–90	81–90	81–90	81–90
Lowell, Mass.	21–30	[a]	31–40	51–60	61–70	61–70	81–90	81–90	91–100	91–100
Lynn, Mass.	[d]	[d]	10 or less	11–20	11–20	21–30	21–30	21–30	21–30	21–30
Macon, Ga.	[a]	[a]	[a]	[a]	[a]	[a]	[a]	[a]	[a]	[a]
Madison, Wis.	21–30	[a]	21–30	21–30	[a]	[a]	[a]	[a]	[a]	
Malden, Mass.	[a]	[a]	10 or less	[a]	[a]	31–40	31–40	41–50	51–60	51–60
Manchester, N. H.	[a]	[a]	10 or less	10 or less	21–30	31–40	31–40	31–40	31–40	31–40
Massillon, Ohio	21–30	21–30	31–40	31–40	51–60	61–70	61–70	61–70	61–70	61–70
Memphis, Tenn.	*10 or less*[c]	*10 or less*[c]	11–20	11–20	11–20	41–50	51–60	51–60	51–60	51–60
Miles City, Mont.	[a]	10 or less	[a]	10 or less	10 or less	10 or less	10 or less	[a]	11–20	11–20
Milwaukee, Wis.	11–20	11–20	21–30	41–50	71–80	71–80	81–90	81–90	81–90	81–90
Minneapolis, Minn.	10 or less	10 or less	11–20	11–20	21–30	21–30	31–40	31–40	31–40	31–40
Mobile, Ala.	[a]	[a]	11–20	11–20	21–30	31–40	71–80	71–80	51–60	41–50
Nashville, Tenn.		[d]	[d]	10 or less	21–30	31–40	51–60	51–60	51–60	51–60
Newark, N. J.	11–20		31–40	41–50	51–60	61–70	61–70	61–70	61–70	61–70
New Bedford, Mass.	11–20	11–20	21–30	41–50	51–60	51–60	61–70	61–70	61–70	61–70
New Britain, Conn.	11–20	[a]	21–30	41–50	61–70	61–70	61–70	61–70	61–70	51–60
New Haven, Conn.	11–20	11–20	11–20	31–40	51–60	51–60	61–70	61–70	61–70	61–70
New Orleans, La.	10 or less	10 or less	10 or less	31–40	41–50	51–60	51–60	51–60	51–60	51–60
New York, N. Y.	11–20	21–30	21–30	41–50	61–70	71–80	71–80	71–80	71–80	71–80
Niagara Falls, N. Y.	[a]	[a]	21–30	[a]	31–40	31–40	21–30	21–30	[a]	21–30
Norfolk, Va.	11–20	21–30	21–30	31–40	61–70	61–70	71–80	71–80	71–80	71–80
Oakland, Cal.	11–20	21–30	31–40	31–40	41–50	41–50	51–60	51–60	51–60	51–60
Oklahoma City, Okla.	[a]	[a]	41–50[c]	41–50[c]	51–60	101–110	101–110	101–110	91–100	91–100

[a] No report.

[b] The increase since 1914 is an adjusted figure which will not be obtained by applying the percentage of change within the last preceding four-month period to the previously reported increase since 1914.

Rents of Wage Earners' Houses in Specified Cities, July, 1914 1927—(*Continued*)

Conference Board)

March, 1922	July, 1922	Nov., 1922	March, 1923	July, 1923	Nov., 1923	March, 1924	July, 1924	Nov., 1924	March, 1925	July, 1925	Nov., 1925	Dec., 1925
11–20	11–20	41–50	41–50	51–60	51–60	51–60	51–60	51–60	51–60	51–60	51–60	51–60
31–40	31–40	41–50	41–50	41–50	41–50	41–50	41–50	41–50	41–50	41–50	41–50	41–50
[a]	[a]	[a]	[a]	[a]	[a]	[a]	[a]	[a]	[a]	[a]	[a]	[a]
10 or less	11–20	31–40	51–60	71–80	91–100	101–110	81–90	51–60	31–40	21–30	21–30	21–30
51–60	51–60	51–60	51–60	51–60	51–60	61–70	51–60	51–60	41–50	31–40	21–30	11–20
31–40	21–30	21–30	21–30	21–30	31–40[b]	11–20	11–20	11–20	11–20	11–20	11–20	10 or less
11–20	11–20	21–30	41–50	61–70	71–80	91–100	91–100	91–100	91–100	91–100	91–100	91–100
21–30	21–30	21–30	81–90	121–130	121–130	121–130	121–130	121–130	121–130	121–130	[a]	[a]
71–80	71–80	91–100	91–100	91–100	111–120[b]	111–120	111–120	111–120	111–120	101–110	101–110	101–110
11–20[c]	*11–20*[c]	[a]	*10 or less*[c]	*10 or less*[c]	[a]	[a]	11–20	[a]	11–20	11–20	11–20	11–20
41–50	21–30	21–30	21–30	51–60	51–60	51–60	51–60	51–60	51–60	51–60	51–60	51–60
51–60	51–60	91–100[b]	91–100	121–130	101–110[b]	111–120	111–120	111–120	101–110	101–110	81–90	71–80
21–30	21–30	21–30	21–30	21–30	21–30	41–50	41–50	61–70	61–70	61–70	61–70	61–70
[a]	[a]	[a]	[a]	[a]	81–90	81–90	71–80	61–70	51–60	41–50	[a]	21–30
61–70	61–70	81–90[b]	91–100	91–100	111–120	111–120	111–120	111–120	111–120	111–120	111–120	111–120
61–70	61–70	81–90	91–100	111–120	131–140	131–140	141–150	141–150	141–150	141–150	141–150	131–140
41–50	51–60	71–80	71–80	91–100	91–100	91–100	91–100	91–100	91–100	91–100	91–100	131–140
61–70	51–60	51–60	51–60	51–60	51–60	51–60	51–60	41–50	41–50	31–40	21–30	21–30
[a]	[a]	[a]	[a]	[a]	41–50	41–50	41–50	31–40	[a]	31–40	21–30	21–30
31–40	41–50	41–50	41–50	41–50	61–70[b]	61–70	61–70	51–60	41–50	41–50	31–40	31–40
[a]	31–40	31–40	31–40	81–90	81–90	81–90	81–90	81–90	81–90	81–90	81–90	81–90
41–50	41–50	71–80[b]	51–60	41–50	51–60[b]	71–80	71–80	61–70	61–70	71–80	91–100	91–100
71–80	71–80	91–100	101–110	101–110	131–140	131–140	131–140	131–140	121–130	121–130	111–120	111–120
91–100	91–100	121–130[b]	121–130	121–130	141–150	151–160	181–190	191–200	191–200	191–200	191–200	191–200
31–40	31–40	61–70	61–70	61–70	71–80	91–100	91–100	91–100	91–100	91–100	[a]	[a]
81–90	81–90	81–90	91–100	111–120	111–120	111–120	111–120	91–100	91–100	91–100	81–90	81–90
41–50	41–50	41–50	41–50	41–50	41–50	41–50	41–50	41–50	51–60	51–60	61–70	61–70
81–90	81–90	81–90	111–120	111–120[c]	111–120	111–120	111–120	161–170	161–170	161–170	161–170	161–170
71–80	71–80	91–100	91–100	91–100	91–100	91–100	91–100	81–90	71–80	51–60	41–50	31–40
71–80	71–80	71–80	71–80	111–120	111–120	131–140	131–140	131–140	131–140	131–140	121–130	121–130
21–30	21–30	21–30	21–30	51–60	71–80	101–110	101–110	111–120	121–130	111–120	111–120	111–120
61–70	61–70	61–70	61–70	[a]	[a]	71–80	71–80	71–80	71–80	51–60	31–40	11–20
61–70	71–80	71–80	71–80	[a]	121–130	[a]	[a]	[a]	[a]	[a]	[a]	[a]
61–70	51–60	51–60	51–60	51–60	51–60	61–70	51–60	31–40	31–40	31–40	31–40	21–30
71–80	51–60	51–60	31–40	31–40	31–40	31–40	61–70	61–70	51–60	51–60	51–60	41–50
131–140	121–130	121–130	121–130	141–150	171–180	171–180	161–170	161–170	151–160	131–140	101–110	91–100
81–90	81–90	101–110	101–110	121–130	121–130	141–150	141–150	141–150	141–150	151–160	151–160	151–160
91–100	91–100	101–110	131–140	131–140	131–140	121–130	121–130	111–120	111–120	111–120	111–120	101–110
21–30	21–30	41–50	71–800	71–80	71–80	71–80	81–90	51–60	51–60	51–60	51–60	51–60
[a]	[a]	[a]	[a]	[a]	51–60	51–60	51–60	51–60	51–60	51–60	41–50	41–50
[a]	[a]	[a]	[a]	[a]	61–70	61–70	71–80	61–70	51–60	41–50	31–40	31–40
51–60	51–60	51–60	51–60	61–70	61–70	61–70	61–70	61–70	71–80	71–80	71–80	71–80
31–40	31–40	31–40	31–40	31–40	31–40	41–50	41–50	41–50	41–50	41–50	41–50	41–50
[a]	61–70	[a]	[a]	[a]	71–80[b]	111–120	101–110	101–110	91–100	91–100	91–100	101–110
51–60	41–50	41–50	41–50	41–50	51–60	51–60	51–60	51–60	51–60	51–60	51–60	51–60
[d]	*11–20*[c]	*11–20*[c]	*11–20*[c]	*10 or less*[c]	[d]	[d]	*10 or less*[c]	*11–20*[c]	*11–20*[c]	*11–20*[c]	*11–20*[c]	*11–20*[c]
81–90	81–90	81–90	111–120	121–130	121–130	121–130	121–130	111–120	111–120	111–120	111–120	111–120
31–40	31–40	41–50	41–50	41–50	51–60[b]	51–60	51–60	41–50	41–50	41–50	31–40	31–40
41–50	31–40	31–40	31–40	31–40	21–30	21–30	21–30	21–30	11–20	10 or less	10 or less	10 or less
51–60	51–60	51–60	51–60	51–60	51–60	51–60	51–60	51–60	51–60	41–50	21–30	11–20
61–70	71–80	71–80	71–80	81–90	91–100	91–100	91–100	91–100	91–100	91–100	91–100	91–100
61–70	61–70	61–70	61–70	61–70	61–70	61–70	61–70	61–70	61–70	61–70	61–70	61–70
51–60	51–60	61–70	61–70	61–70	61–70	61–70	61–70	61–70	61–70	81–90	81–90	61–70
61–70	61–70	61–70	61–70	61–70	61–70	91–100	91–100	91–100	91–100	91–100	91–100	91–100
51–60	51–60	51–60	51–60	61–70	61–70	61–70	61–70	61–70	51–60	51–60	51–60	51–60
81–90	81–90	81–90	81–90	81–90	81–90	91–100	91–100	91–100	91–100	91–100	91–100	91–100
10 or less	[a]	41–50	41–50	[a]	61–70	61–70	61–70	61–70	61–70	61–70	61–70	61–70
71–80	71–80	71–80	51–60	51–60	41–50	41–50	41–50	41–50	41–50	41–50	31–40	31–40
51–60	41–50	41–50	41–50	41–50	71–80	71–80	71–80	71–80	71–80	71–80	71–80	71–80
81–90	81–90	101–110	91–100	71–80	81–90	51–60	41–50	51–60	51–60	41–50	41–50	41–50

[c] Decrease.

[d] No change.

[e] Corrected figure, based on better information than that originally available. See National Industrial Conference Board "The Cost of Living in the United States, 1914–1926," footnote 1, p. 42.

Table 10: Estimated Average Percentages of Increase in Rents December,

(National Industrial

Cities	Jan., 1926	March, 1926	May, 1926	June, 1926	July, 1926	August, 1926	Sept., 1926	Oct., 1926	Nov., 1926	Dec., 1926
Everett, Wash.	51–60	51–60	31–40	31–40	31–40	31–40	31–40	31–40	31–40	31–40
Fall River, Mass.	41–50	41–50	41–50	41–50	41–50	41–50	41–50	41–50	41–50	41–50
Fayetteville, N. C.	[b]	[b]	[b]	[b]	[b]	[b]	[b]	[b]	[b]	[b]
Flint, Mich.	21–30	21–30	41–50	51–60	61–70	71–80	71–80	81–90	81–90	81–90
Fort Wayne, Ind.	11–20	11–20	11–20	11–20	11–20	11–20	11–20	11–20	11–20	11–20
Fort Worth, Tex.	10 or less	10 or less	10 or less	10 or less	10 or less	10 or less	10 or less	10 or less	10 or less	10 or less
Gary, Ind.	81–90	91–100	91–100	91–100	91–100	91–100	91–100	91–100	91–100	81–90
Geneva, N. Y.	[b]	121–130	121–130	121–130	121–130	91–100	91–100	91–100	91–100	91–100
Grand Rapids, Mich.	[b]	121–130	131–140	131–140	131–140	131–140	131–140	131–140	141–150	141–150
Great Falls, Mont.	11–20	11–20	21–30	21–30	21–30	21–30	31–40	41–50	41–50	41–50
Hamilton, Ohio	51–60	51–60	51–60	51–60	51–60	51–60	51–60	51–60	51–60	51–60
Harrisburg, Pa.	71–80	61–70	51–60	51–60	51–60	51–60	51–60	51–60	51–60	51–60
Hartford, Conn.	61–70	61–70	61–70	61–70	61–70	61–70	61–70	61–70	61–70	61–70
Haverhill, Mass.	21–30	21–30	21–30	21–30	21–30	21–30	21–30	21–30	21–30	21–30
Hoboken, N. J.	111–120	111–120	111–120	111–120	111–120	111–120	111–120	111–120	111–120	111–120
Holyoke, Mass.	121–130	111–120	101–110	101–110	101–110	101–110	101–110	101–110	91–100	91–100
Hoquiam, Wash.	131–140	151–160	151–160	151–160	151–160	161–170	161–170	161–170	161–170	161–170
Houston, Tex.	21–30	21–30	21–30	21–30	11–20	10 or less	10 or less	10 or less	10 or less	10 or less
Huntington, W. Va.	21–30	[b]	[b]	[b]	21–30	21–30	21–30	21–30	21–30	21–30
Indianapolis, Ind.	31–40	31–40	31–40	31–40	31–40	31–40	31–40	31–40	31–40	21–30
Jackson, Mich.	81–90	101–110	111–120	111–120	111–120	111–120	111–120	111–120	111–120	111–120
Jacksonville, Fla.	91–100	101–110	101–110	101–110	101–110	101–110	101–110	101–110	111–120	101–110
Jersey City, N. J.	111–120	121–130	111–120	111–120	111–120	111–120	111–120	111–120	111–120	101–110
Johnstown, Pa.	171–180	171–180	171–180	171–180	171–180	171–180	171–180	171–180	151–160	151–160
Kalamazoo, Mich.	[b]	[b]	[b]	[b]	[b]	[b]	[b]	[b]	[b]	[b]
Kansas City, Kans.	81–90	81–90	71–80	71–80	71–80	71–80	71–80	71–80	71–80	71–80
Kansas City, Mo.	51–60	61–70	51–60	51–60	31–40	31–40	41–50	41–50	51–60	71–80
Kenosha, Wis.	161–170	161–170	161–170	161–170	161–170	161–170	191–200	191–200	191–200	161–170
Knoxville, Tenn.	31–40	31–40	31–40	31–40	31–40	31–40	31–40	31–40	31–40	31–40
Lafayette, Ind.	121–130	121–130	121–130	121–130	121–130	121–130	121–130	121–130	121–130	121–130
Lancaster, Pa.	111–120	91–100	91–100	81–90	71–80	71–80	61–70	61–70	51–60	61–70
Lansing, Mich.	[b]	11–20	11–20	10 or less	10 or less	[b]	10 or less	10 or less	10 or less	10 or less
Lawrence, Mass.	[b]	[b]	[b]	[b]	[b]	[b]	[b]	[b]	[b]	[b]
Lincoln, Neb.	21–30	21–30	11–20	11–20	11–20	11–20	11–20	11–20	11–20	11–20
Little Rock, Ark.	41–50	41–50	41–50	41–50	41–50	41–50	41–50	41–50	41–50	41–50
Los Angeles, Cal.	91–100	91–100	81–90	81–90	81–90	81–90	81–90	81–90	81–90	81–90
Louisville, Ky.	141–150	131–140	131–140	131–140	131–140	131–140	131–140	131–140	131–140	121–130
Lowell, Mass.	101–110	101–110	101–110	101–110	101–110	101–110	101–110	101–110	91–100	91–100
Lynn, Mass.	51–60	51–60	51–60	51–60	51–60	41–50	41–50	41–50	41–50	41–50
Macon, Ga.	41–50	41–50	41–50	51–60	61–70	61–70	61–70	61–70	61–70	61–70
Madison, Wis.	31–40	31–40	31–40	31–40	31–40	31–40	31–40	31–40	21–30	21–30
Malden, Mass.	71–80	71–80	71–80	71–80	71–80	71–80	71–80	71–80	71–80	71–80
Manchester, N. H.	31–40	21–30	21–30	21–30	21–30	21–30	21–30	21–30	21–30	21–30
Massillon, Ohio	101–110	101–110	111–120	111–120	111–120	111–120	111–120	111–120	111–120	111–120
Memphis, Tenn.	41–50	41–50	41–50	41–50	41–50	41–50	41–50	41–50	41–50	41–50
Miles City, Mont.	11–20[a]	11–20[a]	11–20[a]	11–20[a]	11–20[a]	11–20[a]	11–20[a]	11–20[a]	11–20[a]	11–20[a]
Milwaukee, Wis.	101–110	101–110	91–100	91–100	91–100	91–100	91–100	91–100	91–100	81–90
Minneapolis, Minn.	31–40	31–40	31–40	21–30	21–30	21–30	21–30	21–30	21–30	21–30
Mobile, Ala.	10 or less	10 or less	10 or less	10 or less	10 or less	10 or less	10 or less	11–20	11–20	11–20
Nashville, Tenn.	10 or less	10 or less	10 or less	10 or less	10 or less	10 or less[a]	10 or less[a]	10 or less[a]	10 or less[a]	10 or less[a]
Newark, N. J.	81–90	81–90	81–90	81–90	81–90	81–90	81–90	81–90	81–90	81–90
New Bedford, Mass.	61–70	61–70	61–70	61–70	61–70	61–70	61–70	61–70	61–70	61–70
New Britain, Conn.	61–70	41–50	31–40	31–40	31–40	31–40	21–30	21–30	21–30	21–30
New Haven, Conn.	91–100	81–90	71–80	71–80	71–80	71–80	71–80	71–80	71–80	71–80
New Orleans, La.	51–60	51–60	51–60	51–60	51–60	51–60	51–60	51–60	61–70	61–70
New York, N. Y.	91–100	81–90	81–90	81–90	81–90	81–90	81–90	81–90	81–90	81–90
Niagara Falls, N.Y.	61–70	31–40	31–40	31–40	31–40	31–40	31–40	31–40	21–30	21–30
Norfolk, Va.	21–30	21–30	21–30	21–30	21–30	21–30	21–30	21–30	21–30	21–30
Oakland, Cal.	71–80	61–70	61–70	61–70	61–70	61–70	61–70	61–70	61–70	61–70
Oklahoma City, Ok.	61–70	61–70	61–70	71–80	71–80	71–80	71–80	71–80	81–90	91–100

[a] = Decrease. [b] = No report.

F WAGE EARNERS' HOUSES IN SPECIFIED CITIES, JULY, 1914 TO 927—(*Continued*)

onference Board)

Jan., 1927	Feb., 1927	Mar. 1927	Apr., 1927	May, 1927	June, 1927	July, 1927	Aug., 1927	Sept., 1927	Oct., 1927	Nov., 1927	Dec., 1927
31–40	31–40	31–40	31–40	31–40	31–40	31–40	31–40	31–40	31–40	31–40	31–40
31–40	31–40	31–40	31–40	31–40	31–40	31–40	31–40	31–40	31–40	31–40	31–40
81–90	81–90	81–90	81–90	91–100	91–100	91–100	91–100	91–100	91–100	81–90	81–90
b	b	b	b	b	b	b	b	b	b	b	b
11–20	11–20	11–20	11–20	11–20	11–20	10 or less	10 or less	10 or less	10 or less	10 or less	10 or less
0 or less	10 or less	10 or less	10 or less	10 or less	10 or less	10 or less	10 or less	10 or less	10 or less	10 or less	10 or less
81–90	81–90	81–90	81–90	81–90	81–90	71–80	71–80	71–80	51–60	51–60	51–60
91–100	91–100	81–90	81–90	81–90	81–90	81–90	81–90	81–90	51–70	51–60	51–60
131–140	131–140	131–140	131–140	141–150	141–150	141–150	141–150	151–160	b	151–160	151–160
41–50	41–50	41–50	41–50	51–60	51–60	51–60	51–60	51–60	51–60	51–60	51–60
51–60	41–50	41–50	41–50	41–50	31–40	31–40	31–40	31–40	31–40	31–40	31–40
51–60	51–60	51–60	51–60	51–60	51–60	51–60	51–60	51–60	51–60	41–50	41–50
61–70	61–70	61–70	61–70	61–70	61–70	61–70	61–70	61–70	61–70	41–50	41–50
21–30	21–30	21–30	21–30	11–20	10 or less	10 or less	10 or less	10 or less	10 or less	10 or less	10 or less
111–120	111–120	111–120	111–120	111–120	111–120	111–120	111–120	111–120	111–120	111–120	111–120
91–100	91–100	91–100	91–100	91–100	91–100	91–100	91–100	91–100	81–90	81–90	81–90
161–170	161–170	161–170	161–170	161–170	141–150	131–140	131–140	131–140	131–140	131–140	131–140
0 or less	10 or less	10 or less	10 or less	10 or less	10 or less	10 or less	10 or less	10 or less	10 or less	11–20	10 or less
21–30	21–30	21–30	21–30	21–30	21–30	21–30	21–30	b	21–30	b	b
21–30	21–30	21–30	21–30	21–30	21–30	21–30	21–30	21–30	21–30	11–20	11–20
111–120	111–120	111–120	111–120	111–120	111–120	111–120	111–120	111–120	111–120	101–110	101–110
101–110	91–100	71–80	71–80	41–50	31–40	31–40	31–40	31–40	31–40	31–40	31–40
101–110	101–110	101–110	101–110	101–110	101–110	101–110	101–110	101–110	101–110	101–110	101–110
131–140	131–140	131–140	131–140	131–140	131–140	131–140	131–140	131–140	131–140	131–140	131–140
b	b	b	b	b	b	b	b	b	b	b	b
71–80	71–80	61–70	61–70	61–70	61–70	61–70	61–70	71–80	71–80	71–80	71–80
81–90	81–90	81–90	91–100	91–100	91–100	91–100	91–100	91–100	91–100	91–100	91–100
161–170	131–140	131–140	111–120	111–120	111–120	111–120	131–140	131–140	131–140	101–110	101–110
31–40	31–40	31–40	31–40	31–40	31–40	31–40	31–40	31–40	31–40	31–40	31–40
121–130	121–130	121–130	121–130	121–130	121–130	121–130	121–130	121–130	121–130	121–130	121–130
b	b	b	b	b	b	b	b	b	b	b	b
61–70	61–70	51–60	51–60	51–60	51–60	51–60	51–60	51–60	51–60	51–60	51–60
10 or less	10 or less	10 or less	10 or less	10 or less	10 or less	10 or less	10 or less	b	21–30	11–20	11–20
11–20	11–20	11–20	11–20	11–20	11–20	11–20	11–20	11–20	10 or less	10 or less	11–20
41–50	41–50	41–50	41–50	41–50	41–50	41–50	41–50	41–50	41–50	41–50	41–50
81–90	81–90	81–90	81–90	71–80	71–80	71–80	71–80	71–80	71–80	71–80	71–80
121–130	101–110	101–110	101–110	101–110	101–110	91–100	91–100	91–100	91–100	91–100	91–100
91–100	91–100	81–90	81–90	81–90	81–90	81–90	81–90	81–90	81–90	81–90	71–80
41–50	41–50	41–50	41–50	41–50	41–50	31–40	31–40	31–40	31–40	31–40	31–40
61–70	61–70	61–70	61–70	61–70	61–70	61–70	61–70	61–70	61–70	61–70	61–70
21–30	21–30	21–30	21–30	31–40	31–40	31–40	31–40	31–40	41–50	41–50	41–50
71–80	71–80	71–80	71–80	71–80	71–80	71–80	71–80	71–80	71–80	71–80	71–80
21–30	21–30	21–30	21–30	21–30	21–30	21–30	21–30	21–30	21–30	21–30	21–30
111–120	111–120	111–120	111–120	111–120	101–110	101–110	101–110	101–110	101–110	101–110	101–110
41–50	41–50	41–50	41–50	41–50	41–50	41–50	41–50	41–50	41–50	41–50	41–50
21–30[a]	21–30[a]	21–30[a]	21–30[a]	21–30[a]	21–30[a]	21–30[a]	21–30[a]	21–30[a]	21–30[a]	11–20[a]	11–20[a]
81–90	81–90	81–90	81–90	81–90	81–90	81–90	81–90	81–90	81–90	81–90	81–90
21–30	21–30	21–30	21–30	21–30	21–30	21–30	21–30	21–30	21–30	21–30	21–30
11–20	11–20	11–20	11–20	11–20	10 or less	11–20	11–20	11–20	11–20	11–20	10 or less
10 or less[a]	10 or less[a]	10 or less[a]	10 or less[a]	10 or less[a]	10 or less[a]	10 or less[a]	10 or less[a]	10 or less[a]	10 or less[a]	10 or less[a]	10 or less[a]
81–90	81–90	81–90	81–90	81–90	71–80	71–80	71–80	71–80	71–80	61–70	61–70
61–70	61–70	61–70	61–70	71–80	71–80	51–60	51–60	51–60	61–70	61–70	61–70
21–30	21–30	21–30	21–30	21–30	21–30	11–20	11–20	11–20	11–20	11–20	11–20
71–80	71–80	71–80	71–80	71–80	71–80	71–80	71–80	71–80	71–80	71–80	71–80
61–70	61–70	61–70	61–70	61–70	61–70	61–70	61–70	61–70	51–60	51–60	51–60
81–90	81–90	81–90	81–90	81–90	71–80	71–80	71–80	71–80	71–80	71–80	71–80
21–30	21–30	21–30	21–30	21–30	21–30	21–30	21–30	21–30	21–30	21–30	21–30
21–30	21–30	21–30	21–30	21–30	21–30	21–30	21–30	21–30	21–30	21–30	21–30
51–60	51–60	51–60	51–60	51–60	51–60	51–60	51–60	61–70	61–70	61–70	61–70
101–110	101–110	101–110	101–110	101–110	91–100	91–100	101–110	101–110	101–110	101–110	101–110

Table 10: Estimated Average Percentages of Increase to Decembe

(National Indust

	Nov., 1918	March, 1919	July, 1919	Nov., 1919	March, 1920	July, 1920	Nov., 1920	March, 1921	July, 1921	Nov. 1921
Omaha, Neb.	[d]	31–40	31–40	61–70	[a]	71–80	71–80	71–80	61–70	61–7
Pasadena, Cal.	[d]	[d]	31–40	31–40	71–80	111–120	151–160	[a]	131–140	131–1
Passaic, N. J.	[a]	[a]	21–30	51–60	81–90	101–110	101–110	[a]	101–110	101–1
Paterson, N. J.	21–30	31–40	31–40	61–70	71–80	81–90	81–90	81–90	81–90	[a]
Pawtucket, R. I.	[a]	[a]	21–30	21–30	[a]	[a]	[a]	[a]	[a]	[a]
Peoria, Ill.	[a]	[a]	11–20	11–20	21–30	31–40	31–40	31–40	31–40	31–4
Philadelphia, Pa.	11–20	11–20	11–20	11–20	31–40	51–60	51–60	51–60	51–60	51–6
Phoenix, Ariz.	[d]	[d]	10 or less	10 or less	51–60	51–60	71–80	71–80	71–80	71–8
Pittsburgh, Pa.	11–20	21–30	21–30	31–40	51–60	61–70	61–70	71–80	71–80	71–8
Port Huron, Mich.	31–40	31–40	31–40	31–40	41–50	71–80[e]	101–110	101–110	71–80	[a]
Portland, Me.	21–30	[a]	11–20	11–20	21–30	21–30	21–30	21–30	21–30	21–3
Portland, Ore.	51–60	51–60	71–80	71–80	71–80	71–80	91–100	91–100	91–100	91–1
Portsmouth, Va.	[a]	[a]	[a]	[a]	[a]	[a]	[a]	[a]	[a]	[a]
Providence, R. I.	10 or less	10 or less	11–20	11–20	21–30	21–30	21–30	21–30	21–30	21–3
Pueblo, Col.	[a]	[a]	51–60	51–60	51–60	51–60	71–80	71–80	71–80	71–8
Quincy, Ill.	[a]	[a]	[a]	[a]	[a]	[a]	[a]	[a]	[a]	[a]
Racine, Wis.	[a]	31–40	31–40	61–70	61–70	91–100	[a]	[a]	71–80	[a]
Reading, Pa.	10 or less	21–30	31–40	31–40	41–50	71–80	71–80	71–80	61–70	[a]
Richmond, Ind.	[d]	[d]	21–30	31–40	41–50	121–130	121–130	121–130	121–130	121–1
Richmond, Va.	10 or less	10 or less	11–20	31–40	[a]	41–50	41–50	41–50	21–30	21–3
Riverside, Cal.	[a]	10 or less	10 or less	[a]	21–30	51–60	91–100	91–100	91–100	91–1
Roanoke, Va.	[a]	[a]	[a]	[a]	[a]	[a]	[a]	[a]	[a]	[a]
Rochester, N. Y.	11–20	11–20	11–20	21–30	41–50	41–50	71–80	71–80	81–90	81–9
Rockford, Ill.	21–30	21–30	21–30	21–30	21–30	41–50	41–50	41–50	41–50	41–5
Sacramento, Cal.	11–20	11–20	11–20	31–40	31–40	31–40	71–80	71–80	61–70	61–7
Saginaw, Mich.	21–30	31–40	61–70	61–70	61–70	71–80	71–80	41–50	31–40	31–4
St. Joseph, Mo.	[a]	[a]	41–50	51–60[e]	71–80	81–90	81–90[e]	81–90	81–90	81–9
St. Louis, Mo.	10 or less	10 or less	10 or less	11–20	31–40	31–40	31–40	31–40	41–50	41–5
St. Paul, Minn.	[a]	[d]	[d]	11–20	[a]	31–40	31–40	[a]	[a]	41–5
Salt Lake City, Utah	[d,e]	[d]	11–20	11–20	31–40	[a]	51–60	51–60	51–60	51–6
San Antonio, Tex.	11–20	21–30	21–30	31–40	41–50	51–60	81–90	81–90	81–90	81–9
San Diego, Cal.	[d]	[d]	[d]	10 or less	31–40	41–50	71–80	71–80	71–80	71–8
San Francisco, Cal.	[d]	10 or less	10 or less	10 or less	11–20	11–20	21–30	31–40	31–40	31–4
San José, Cal.	11–20	11–20	[a]	[a]	71–80	71–80	101–110	101–110	91–100	[a]
Savannah, Ga.	10 or less	[a]	10 or less	10 or less	11–20	41–50	41–50	41–50	31–40	21–3
Schenectady, N. Y.	11–20	11–20	11–20	21–30	41–50	51–60	61–70	61–70	61–70	61–7
Scottsbluff, Neb.	[a]	[a]	[a]	[a]	21–30	21–30	[a]	[a]	[a]	[a]
Scranton, Pa.	10 or less	21–30	21–30	21–30	41–50	41–50	51–60	51–60	51–60	51–6
Seattle, Wash.	31–40	[a]	31–40	61–70	61–70	61–70	61–70	61–70	41–50	31–4
Sedalia, Mo.	[a]	[a]	[a]	[a]	[a]	[a]	[a]	[a]	[a]	[a]
Sioux City, Ia.	[d]	11–20	31–40	81–90	111–120	121–130	121–130	91–100	91–100	71–8
Sioux Falls, S. D.	[a]	[a]	[a]	[a]	[a]	[a]	[a]	[a]	[a]	[a]
Somerville, Mass.	[a]	[a]	11–20	[a]	21–30	31–40	51–60	71–80	81–90	81–9
South Bend, Ind.	21–30	21–30	31–40	51–60	61–70	81–90	81–90	81–90	81–90	81–9
Spokane, Wash.	11–20	11–20	31–40	61–70	71–80	81–90	81–90	81–90	81–90	81–9
Springfield, Ill.	10 or less	11–20	11–20	21–30	21–30	51–60	61–70	61–70	71–80	71–8
Springfield, Mass.	21–30	21–30	21–30	21–30	41–50	41–50	41–50	51–60	51–60	51–6
Springfield, Ohio	10 or less	10 or less	10 or less	11–20	21–30	21–30	21–30	21–30	21–30	21–3
Superior, Wis.	10 or less	10 or less	10 or less	10 or less	11–20	21–30	31–40	31–40	31–40	31–4
Syracuse, N. Y.	11–20	21–30	31–40	31–40	51–60	71–80	81–90	81–90	71–80	71–8
Tacoma, Wash.	31–40	31–40	31–40	31–40	31–40	41–50	41–50	41–50	31–40	21–3
Tampa, Fla.	[d]	[d]	10 or less	31–40	51–60	[a]	61–70	61–70	61–70	61–7
Terre Haute, Ind.	21–30	21–30	21–30	21–30	31–40	51–60	111–120	111–120	111–120	111–1
Toledo, Ohio	11–20	11–20	31–40	31–40	41–50	51–60	51–60	51–60	51–60	41–5
Topeka, Kan.	[a]	[a]	[a]	[a]	[a]	[a]	[a]	[a]	[a]	[a]
Trenton, N. J.	11–20	[a]	21–30	31–40	71–80	71–80	71–80	71–80	81–90	81–9
Troy, N. Y.	[a]	[a]	[a]	31–40	31–40	31–40	31–40	51–60	51–60	51–6
Tulsa, Okla.	[a]	[a]	[a]	[a]	[a]	[a]	[a]	[a]	[a]	[a]
Utica, N. Y.	11–20	11–20	21–30	21–30	31–40	51–60	51–60	51–60	71–80	71–8
Warren, Ohio	11–20	[a]	[a]	[a]	[a]	41–50	41–50	[a]	[a]	[a]

[a] No report.

[b] The increase since 1914 is an adjusted figure which will not be obtained by applying the percentage of change within the last preceding four-month period to the previously reported increase since 1914.

Rents of Wage Earners' Houses in Specified Cities, July, 1914 1927—(*Continued*)

Conference Board)

March, 1922	July, 1922	Nov., 1922	March, 1923	July, 1923	Nov., 1923	March, 1924	July, 1924	Nov., 1924	March, 1925	July, 1925	Nov., 1925	Dec., 1925
61–70	61–70[e]	61–70[e]	61–70[e]	61–70[e]	61–70	61–70	61–70	41–50	21–30	21–30	21–30	21–30
[a]	151–160	151–160	151–160	151–160	151–160	[a]	[a]	[a]	[a]	91–100	91–100	91–100
101–110	101–110	101–110	101–110	101–110	101–110	101–110	111–120	111–120	131–140	131–140	111–120	111–120
81–90	91–100	91–100	91–100	91–100	111–120	131–140	131–140	131–140	131–140	131–140	131–140	131–140
[a]	[a]	[a]	[a]	[a]	[a]	[a]	[a]	[a]	[a]	[a]	[a]	[a]
31–40	41–50	41–50	61–70	61–70	61–70	61–70	61–70	61–70	41–50	41–50	21–30	21–30
51–60	51–60	71–80	71–80	81–90	91–100	91–100	101–110	111–120	111–120	111–120	111–120	111–120
71–80	51–60	51–60	61–70	61–70	111–120	111–120	111–120	111–120	91–100	91–100	91–100	91–100
71–80	71–80	71–80	71–80	71–80	91–100	101–110	111–120	111–120	121–130	121–130	111–120	111–120
[a]	71–80	71–80	71–80	71–80	71–80	71–80	71–80	71–80	71–80	71–80	71–80	71–80
21–30	21–30	31–40	41–50	41–50	61–70	71–80	61–70	61–70	61–70	61–70	61–70	61–70
91–100	91–100	91–100	91–100	91–100	91–100	91–100	91–100	71–80	71–80	71–80	71–80	71–80
[a]	[a]	[a]	[a]	[a]	31–40	31–40	31–40	31–40	31–40	21–30	21–30	11–20
21–30	31–40	31–40	31–40	41–50	41–50	41–50	61–70	61–70	61–70	61–70	61–70	61–70
71–80	71–80	61–70	61–70	51–60	51–60	51–60	51–60	51–60	51–60	51–60	51–60	51–60
[a]	[a]	[a]	[a]	[a]	81–90	91–100	101–110	101–110	101–110	101–110	101–110	101–110
71–80	71–80	71–80	[a]	[a]	61–70	61–70	61–70	71–80	71–80	71–80	81–90	81–90
61–70	51–60	51–60	61–70	71–80	71–80	81–90	81–90	81–90	[a]	101–110	101–110	121–130
81–90	81–90	81–90	81–90	91–100	91–100	151–160	151–160	[a]	151–160	101–110	101–110	101–110
21–30	21–30	21–30	21–30	21–30	51–60[b]	51–60	51–60	51–60	51–60	51–60	41–50	31–40
101–110	101–110	151–160[b]	151–160	151–160	151–160	[a]	101–110	121–130	121–130	71–80	71–80	71–80
[a]	[a]	[a]	[a]	[a]	61–70	61–70	31–40	21–30	31–40	11–20	10 or less	10 or less
81–90	81–90	81–90	91–100	91–100	91–100	91–100	91–100	91–100	91–100	91–100	91–100	81–90
41–50	41–50	21–30[b]	21–30	21–30	51–60[b]	51–60	51–60	71–80	71–80	71–80	71–80	71–80
61–70	51–60	51–60	51–60	[a]	[a]	[a]	[a]	[a]	[a]	[a]	[a]	[a]
31–40	31–40	31–40	31–40	31–40	31–40	31–40	31–40	31–40	41–50	41–50	41–50	51–60
101–110	101–110	111–120	111–120	131–140	131–140	101–110	91–100	91–100	61–70	41–50	41–50	41–50
41–50	41–50	81–90[b]	81–90	81–90	91–100	91–100	91–100	91–100	91–100	91–100	91–100	91–100
41–50	31–40	11–20	11–20	11–20	81–90[b]	81–90	71–80	51–60	51–60	51–60	41–50	21–30
31–40	31–40	31–40	31–40	31–40	31–40	31–40	31–40	31–40	31–40	31–40	31–40	31–40
81–90	81–90	71–80	71–80	71–80	81–90	81–90	61–70	51–60	51–60	51–60	51–60	71–80
71–80	71–80	71–80	81–90	101–110	101–110	101–110	101–110	101–110	101–110	101–110	101–110	101–110
31–40	41–50	41–50	41–50	41–50	41–50	41–50	41–50	41–50	41–50	41–50	41–50	41–50
[a]	[a]	[a]	[a]	[a]	71–80	81–90	81–90	71–80	51–60	41–50	41–50	[a]
21–30	21–30	10 or less[b]	10 or less	10 or less	31–40[b]	21–30	21–30	21–30	21–30	21–30	21–30	21–30
61–70	61–70	71–80	71–80	71–80	91–100	91–100	91–100	91–100	91–100	91–100	81–90	71–80
[a]	[a]	[a]	[a]	[a]	[a]	[a]	[a]	[a]	[a]	[a]	[a]	[a]
51–60	81–90	171–180[b]	171–180	[a]	171–180	171–180	171–180	171–180	171–180	41–50[e]	31–40	31–40
31–40	21–30	21–30	31–40	31–40	31–40	41–50	51–60	51–60	51–60	41–50	31–40	31–40
[a]	[a]	[a]	[a]	[a]	31–40	31–40	11–20	10 or less	10 or less	10 or less	21–30	21–30
61–70	61–70	61–70	61–70	51–60	51–60	51–60	41–50	61–70	61–70	61–70	61–70	61–70
[a]	[a]	[a]	[a]	[a]	51–60	41–50	41–50	41–50	41–50	41–50	21–30	21–30
81–90	91–100	111–120	111–120	111–120	121–130	121–130	121–130	131–140	131–140	131–140	131–140	131–140
81–90	81–90	121–130	121–130	121–130	121–130	121–130	121–130	121–130	121–130	151–160	141–150	141–150
81–90	81–90	81–90	81–90	81–90	81–90	81–90	81–90	81–90	71–80	71–80	71–80	71–80
71–80	71–80	91–100[b]	111–120	111–120	111–120	111–120	121–130	121–130	121–130	121–130	121–130	111–120
51–60	51–60	51–60	51–60	51–60	51–60	51–60	51–60	51–60	51–60	51–60	51–60	41–50
21–30	21–30	21–30	21–30	21–30	21–30	21–30	21–30	21–30	11–20	11–20	11–20	11–20
31–40	21–30	11–20	11–20	11–20	11–20	11–20	11–20	11–20	11–20	11–20	10 or less	10 or less
71–80	61–70	61–70	71–80	71–80	71–80	81–90	81–90	71–80	71–80	71–80	71–80	71–80
21–30	21–30	21–30	21–30	21–30	21–30	21–30	21–30	21–30	21–30	21–30	21–30	21–30
61–70	41–50	21–30[b]	31–40	31–40	41–50[b]	71–80	71–80	71–80	71–80	91–100	111–120	[a]
111–120	111–120	111–120	111–120	121–130	121–130	121–130	121–130	101–110	71–80	71–80	61–70	51–60
41–50	41–50	21–30[b]	21–30	31–40	41–50	41–50	41–50	51–60	51–60	41–50	31–40	31–40
[a]	[a]	[a]	[a]	[a]	81–90	81–90	71–80	61–70	41–50	41–50	31–40	31–40
81–90	81–90	81–90	81–90	81–90	91–100	91–100	91–100	91–100	81–90	71–80	71–80	71–80
51–60	61–70	61–70	61–70	61–70	61–70	91–100	91–100	91–100	91–100	91–100	91–100	91–100
[a]	[a]	[a]	[a]	[a]	31–40	21–30	21–30	21–30	21–30	21–30	21–30	21–30
81–90	81–90	81–90	81–90	91–100	91–100	91–100	91–100	91–100	91–100	91–100	81–90	81–90
21–30	[a]	41–50	51–60	[a]	101–110[b]	101–110	101–110	111–120	111–120	101–110	91–100	81–90

[a] No change.

[b] Decrease.

[e] Corrected figure, based on better information than that originally available. See National Industrial Conference Board, "The Cost of Living in the United States, 1914–1926," footnote 1, p. 42.

Table 10: Estimated Average Percentages of Increase in Rents December

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Cities	Jan., 1926	March, 1926	May, 1926	June, 1926	July, 1926	August, 1926	Sept., 1926	Oct., 1926	Nov., 1926	Dec., 1926
Omaha, Neb.	21–30	21–30	21–30	21–30	21–30	21–30	21–30	21–30	21–30	11–20
Pasadena, Cal.	91–100	91–100	81–90	61–70	61–70	61–70	61–70	61–70	61–70	61–70
Passaic, N. J.	111–120	101–110	101–110	101–110	101–110	101–110	101–110	101–110	101–110	101–110
Paterson, N. J.	131–140	131–140	131–140	131–140	131–140	131–140	131–140	131–140	131–140	131–140
Pawtucket, R. I.	[b]	[b]	[b]	[b]	[b]	[b]	[b]	[b]	[b]	[b]
Peoria, Ill.	21–30	21–30	21–30	21–30	21–30	21–30	21–30	11–20	11–20	11–20
Philadelphia, Pa.	111–120	111–120	111–120	111–120	111–120	111–120	111–120	111–120	111–120	111–120
Phoenix, Arizona	91–100	91–100	91–100	91–100	91–100	91–100	91–100	91–100	91–100	91–100
Pittsburgh, Pa.	111–120	111–120	111–120	111–120	111–120	111–120	111–120	101–110	101–110	101–110
Port Huron, Mich.	71–80	71–80	71–80	71–80	71–80	71–80	71–80	71–80	71–80	71–80
Portland, Me.	61–70	61–70	51–60	51–60	51–60	51–60	51–60	51–60	51–60	41–50
Portland, Ore.	71–80	71–80	61–70	61–70	61–70	61–70	61–70	61–70	61–70	61–70
Portsmouth, Va.	10 or less	10 or less	10 or less	10 or less	10 or less	10 or less	10 or less	10 or less	10 or less	[b]
Providence, R. I.	61–70	61–70	61–70	61–70	61–70	61–70	61–70	61–70	61–70	61–70
Pueblo, Col.	51–60	51–60	41–50	41–50	51–60	51–60	51–60	51–60	51–60	51–60
Quincy, Ill.	[b]	[b]	[b]	[b]	[b]	[b]	[b]	[b]	[b]	[b]
Racine, Wis.	81–90	81–90	81–90	81–90	81–90	81–90	81–90	81–90	81–90	81–90
Reading, Pa.	131–140	131–140	131–140	121–130	121–130	121–130	121–130	121–130	121–130	121–130
Richmond, Ind.	101–110	101–110	101–110	101–110	101–110	101–110	101–110	101–110	101–110	101–110
Richmond, Va.	21–30	21–30	21–30	21–30	21–30	21–30	21–30	11–20	11–20	11–20
Riverside, Cal.	[b]	71–80	71–80	71–80	71–80	71–80	71–80	71–80	71–80	51–60
Roanoke, Va.	11–20[a]	11–20[a]	21–30[a]	21–30[a]	21–30[a]	21–30[a]	21–30[a]	21–30[a]	21–30[a]	21–30[a]
Rochester, N. Y.	81–90	81–90	81–90	81–90	81–90	81–90	81–90	81–90	81–90	91–100
Rockford, Ill.	71–80	71–80	71–80	71–80	71–80	71–80	71–80	71–80	71–80	71–80
Sacramento, Cal.	[b]	[b]	[b]	[b]	[b]	[b]	[b]	[b]	[b]	[b]
Saginaw, Mich.	41–50	41–50	41–50	41–50	41–50	41–50	41–50	41–50	41–50	41–50
St. Joseph, Mo.	41–50	41–50	41–50	31–40	31–40	31–40	21–30	31–40	31–40	31–40
St. Louis, Mo.	91–100	81–90	81–90	81–90	81–90	81–90	81–90	81–90	81–90	81–90
St. Paul, Minn.	21–30	21–30	21–30	11–20	11–20	11–20	21–30	21–30	21–30	21–30
Salt Lake City, Utah	31–40	31–40	31–40	31–40	31–40	31–40	31–40	31–40	31–40	11–20
San Antonio, Tex.	71–80	71–80	51–60	51–60	51–60	51–60	51–60	51–60	51–60	51–60
San Diego, Cal.	101–110	101–110	101–110	101–110	101–110	101–110	101–110	101–110	101–110	101–110
San Francisco, Cal.	41–50	41–50	41–50	41–50	41–50	41–50	41–50	41–50	41–50	41–50
San José, Cal.	41–50	41–50	41–50	41–50	41–50	41–50	41–50	41–50	31–40	31–40
Savannah, Ga.	21–30	21–30	21–30	21–30	21–30	21–30	21–30	21–30	21–30	21–30
Schenectady, N. Y.	71–80	71–80	71–80	71–80	71–80	71–80	71–80	71–80	71–80	71–80
Scottsbluff, Neb.	[b]	[b]	[b]	[b]	[b]	[b]	[b]	[b]	[b]	[b]
Scranton, Pa.	31–40	31–40	31–40	31–40	31–40	31–40	31–40	31–40	31–40	31–40
Seattle, Wash.	31–40	31–40	31–40	31–40	31–40	31–40	31–40	31–40	31–40	31–40
Sedalia, Mo.	21–30	21–30	21–30	21–30	21–30	21–30	21–30	21–30	21–30	21–30
Sioux City, Ia.	61–70	61–70	61–70	61–70	61–70	61–70	61–70	61–70	61–70	61–70
Sioux Falls, S. D.	11–20	11–20	11–20	11–20	11–20	11–20	11–20	11–20	11–20	10 or less
Somerville, Mass.	131–140	131–140	121–130	121–130	121–130	111–120	111–120	111–120	111–120	111–120
South Bend, Ind.	131–140	141–150	121–130	111–120	111–120	111–120	101–110	91–100	91–100	81–90
Spokane, Wash.	71–80	71–80	71–80	71–80	71–80	71–80	71–80	71–80	71–80	71–80
Springfield, Ill.	111–120	111–120	91–100	[b]	71–80	71–80	71–80	71–80	71–80	51–60
Springfield, Mass.	41–50	41–50	41–50	41–50	41–50	41–50	41–50	41–50	41–50	41–50
Springfield, Ohio	11–20	11–20	10 or less	10 or less	10 or less	10 or less	10 or less	10 or less	10 or less	10 or less
Superior, Wis.	10 or less	10 or less	10 or less	10 or less	10 or less	10 or less	10 or less	10 or less	10 or less	10 or less
Syracuse, N. Y.	71–80	71–80	71–80	71–80	71–80	71–80	71–80	71–80	71–80	71–80
Tacoma, Wash.	21–30	21–30	21–30	21–30	21–30	21–30	21–30	21–30	21–30	21–300
Tampa, Fla.	[b]	161–170	161–170	131–140	131–140	131–140	[b]	151–160	151–160	151–160
Terre Haute, Ind.	51–60	51–60	51–60	41–50	41–50	41–50	31–40	31–40	31–40	31–40
Toledo, Ohio	31–40	31–40	31–40	31–40	31–40	31–40	31–40	31–40	31–40	31–40
Topeka, Kan.	31–40	31–40	31–40	31–40	31–40	31–40	31–40	41–50	41–50	41–50
Trenton, N. J.	61–70	61–70	61–70	61–70	61–70	61–70	61–70	61–70	51–60	51–60
Troy, N. Y.	91–100	91–100	91–100	91–100	91–100	91–100	91–100	91–100	91–100	91–100
Tulsa, Okla.	21–30	[b]	[b]	[b]	[b]	10 or less	10 or less	10 or less	10 or less	[b]
Utica, N. Y.	81–90	81–90	81–90	81–90	81–90	81–90	81–90	81–90	81–90	71–80
Warren, Ohio	81–90	81–90	81–90	81–90	81–90	81–90	81–90	81–90	81–90	81–90

[a] = Decrease.

[b] = No report.

F Wage Earners' Houses in Specified Cities, July, 1914 to 927—(*Continued*)

onference Board)

Jan., 1927	Feb., 1927	March, 1927	April, 1927	May, 1927	June, 1927	July, 1927	Aug., 1927	Sept., 1927	Oct., 1927	Nov., 1927	Dec., 1927
11–20	11–20	10 or less	10 or less	10 or less	10 or less	10 or less	10 or less	10 or less	10 or less	10 or less	10 or less
61–70	61–70	61–70	51–60	51–60	51–60	51–60	51–60	51–60	51–60	51–60	51–60
01–110	101–110	101–110	101–110	101–110	101 110	101–110	81–90	81–90	81–90	81–90	81–90
31–140	131–140	131–140	121–130	121–130	121–130	121–130	121–130	121–130	121–130	121–130	121–130
b	b	b	b	b	b	b	b	b	b	b	b
11–20	11–20	11–20	11–20	11–20	11–20	11–20	11–20	11–20	11–20	11–20	11–20
11–120	111–120	111–120	111–120	101–110	101–110	101–110	101–110	101–110	101–110	101–110	91–100
91–100	91–100	91–100	91–100	91–100	91–100	91–100	91–100	91–100	91–100	111–120	111–120
01–110	101–110	101–110	91–100	91–100	91–100	91–100	91–100	91–100	91–100	91–100	91–100
71–80	71–80	71–80	71–80	71–80	71–80	71–80	71–80	71–80	71–80	71–80	71–80
41–50	41–50	41–50	41–50	41–50	41–50	41–50	41–50	41–50	41–50	41–50	41–50
61–70	61–70	51–60	51–60	51–60	51–60	41–50	41–50	41–50	41–50	41–50	41–50
0 or less	10 or less	10 or less	b	10 or less	10 or less	10 or less	b	10 or less	10 or less	10 or less	10 or less
61–70	61–70	61–70	61–70	61–70	61–70	61–70	51–60	51–60	51–60	51–60	51–60
51–60	51–60	61–70	61–70	61–70	61–70	61–70	61–70	61–70	61–70	61–70	61–70
b	b	b	b	b	b	b	b	b	b	b	b
81–90	81–90	81–90	81–90	81–90	b	b	81–90	81–90	111–120	81–90	81–90
01–110	b	101–110	101–110	101–110	101–110	71–80	71–80	71–80	71–80	71–80	71–80
01–110	101–110	101–110	101–110	101–110	101–110	101–110	101–110	101–110	101–110	101–110	71–80
11–20	10 or less	10 or less	10 or less	10 or less	10 or less	10 or less	10 or less	10 or less	10 or less	10 or less	10 or less
51–60	61–70	61–70	61–70	61–70	51–60	51–60	61–70	81–90	81–90	81–90	81–90
31–40[a]	31–40[a]	31–40[a]	31–40[a]	31–40[a]	31–40[a]	31–40[a]	31–40[a]	31–40[a]	31–40[a]	31–40[a]	31–40[a]
91–100	91–100	91–100	91–100	91–100	91–100	91–100	81–90	81–90	81–90	81–90	81–90
71–80	71–80	71–80	71–80	71–80	71–80	71–80	71–80	71–90	71–80	61–70	61–70
b	b	b	b	b	b	b	b	b	b	b	b
41–50	41–50	41–50	41–50	41–50	41–50	41–50	41–50	41–50	41–50	41–50	41–50
21–30	21–30	21–30	21–30	21–30	21–30	21–30	21–30	21–30	21–30	21–30	21–30
81–90	81–90	81–90	81–90	81–90	71–80	71–80	81–90	81–90	81–90	81–90	81–90
11–20	11–20	11–20	11–20	11–20	11–20	11–20	11–20	11–20	11–20	11–20	11–20
11–20	11–20	11–20	11–20	11–20	11–20	11–20	11–20	11–20	11–20	11–20	11–20
51–60	51–60	51–60	41–50	41–50	41–50	41–50	41–50	41–50	41–50	61–70	71–80
101–110	101–110	91–100	91–100	91–100	91–100	91–100	91–100	91 100	91–100	91–100	91–100
41–50	41–50	41–50	41–50	41–50	41–50	41–50	41–50	41–50	41–50	41–50	41–50
31–40	31–40	31–40	31–40	31–40	31–40	31–40	31–40	31–40	31–40	31–40	31–40
21–30	21–30	21–30	21–30	21–30	21–30	21–30	21–30	21–30	21–30	21–30	11–20
71–80	71–80	71–80	71–80	71–80	71–80	71–80	71–80	71–80	71–80	71–80	71–80
b	b	b	b	b	b	b	b	b	b	b	b
31–40	31–40	31–40	31–40	31–40	31–40	31–40	31–40	31–40	31–40	31–40	31–40
31–40	31–40	31–40	31–40	21–30	21–30	21–30	21–30	21–30	21–30	31–40	21–30
21–30	21–30	21–30	21–30	10 or less	10 or less	10 or less	10 or less	10 or less	10 or less[a]	11–20[a]	11–20[a]
51–60	51–60	51–60	51–60	51–60	41–50	41–50	41–50	41–50	41–50	41–50	41–50
0 or less	10 or less	10 or less	10 or less	10 or less	10 or less	10 or less	10 or less	10 or less[a]	10 or less[a]	10 or less[a]	10 or less[a]
111–120	111–120	111–120	111–120	111–120	111–120	111–120	111–120	111–120	111–120	111–120	111–120
81–90	81–90	91–100	91–100	101–110	91–100	91 –100	91–100	91–100	81–90	81–90	81–90
71–80	71–80	71–80	71–80	71–80	71–80	71–80	71–80	71–80	71–80	71–80	71–80
51–60	51–60	51–60	51–60	51–60	51–60	51–60	51–60	51–60	51–60	51–60	51–60
41–50	41–50	41–50	41–50	41–50	41–50	41–50	41–50	41–50	41–50	41–50	41–50
0 or less	10 or less	10 or less	10 or less	10 or less	10 or less	10 or less	10 or lese	10 or less	10 or less	10 or less	10 or less
0 or less	10 or less	10 or less	10 or less	10 or less	10 or less	10 or less	10 or less	10 or less	10 or less	10 or less	10 or less
71–80	71–80	61–70	61–70	61–70	61–70	61–70	61–70	61–70	61–70	51–60	51–60
21–30	21–30	21–30	21–30	21–30	21–30	21–30	21–30	21–30	21–30	21–30	21–30
151–160	121–130	b	121–130	121–130	121–130	121–130	121–130	121–130	121–130	121–130	121–130
31–40	31–40	31–40	31–40	31–40	41–50	41–50	41–50	41–50	31–40	31–40	31–40
31–40	31–40	31–40	31–40	31–40	31–40	31–40	31–40	31–40	31–40	31–40	31–40
41–50	41–50	41–50	31–40	31–40	31–40	31–40	31–40	31–40	41–50	41–50	41–50
51–60	51–60	51–60	51–60	51–60	51–60	51–60	51–60	51–60	51–60	51–60	51–60
91–100	91–100	81–90	81–90	81–90	81–90	61–70	61–70	61–70	61–70	61–70	61–70
b	b	b	b	b	b	b	b	b	b	b	b
71–80	71–80	71–80	71–80	71–80	71–80	71–80	71–80	71–80	71–80	71–80	71–80
81–90	81–90	81–90	71–80	71–80	71–80	71–80	71–80	71–80	61–70	61–70	61–70

Table 10: Estimated Average Percentages of Increase to Decembe

(National Indust

Cities	Nov., 1918	March, 1919	July, 1919	Nov., 1919	March, 1920	July, 1920	Nov., 1920	March, 1921	July, 1921	Nov 192
Washington, D. C.	21–30	21–30[c]	21–30	21–30	21–30	31–40	31–40	31–40	31–40	31–4
Waterbury, Conn.	[a]	[a]	51–60	51–60	51–60	61–70	61–70	61–70	51–60	51–6
Waterloo, Ia.	[d]	11–20	11–20	11–20	21–30	21–30	71–80	71–80	71–80	51–6
Waukesha, Wis.	21–30	21–30	21–30	31–40	31–40	[a]	41–50	41–50	[a]	31–4
Wichita, Kan.	[a]	21–30	21–30	[a]	[a]	91–100	91–100	91–100	91–100	91–1
Wilkes-Barre, Pa.	[d]	10 or less	10 or less	10 or less	11–20	11–20	11–20	31–40	31–40	31–4
Wilmington, Del.	[a]	[a]	11–20	21–30	31–40	41–50	41–50	41–50	41–50	41–5
Worcester, Mass.	31–40	31–40	31–40	31–40	41–50	41–50	51–60	51–60	51–60	51–6
Yonkers, N. Y.	11–20	11–20	11–20	11–20	11–20	31–40	31–40	41–50	41–50	41–5
York, Pa.	[a]	[a]		10 or less	21–30	51–60	51–60	51–60	51–60	51–6
Youngstown, Ohio	[a]	[a]	[a]	51–60	61–70	61–70	71–80	71–80	71–80	71–8

[a] No report.

[b] The increase since 1914 is an adjusted figure which will not be obtained by applying the percentage of change within the last preceding four-month period to the previously reported increase since 1914.

Table 10: Estimated Average Percentages of Increase in Ren Decembe

(National Indust

Cities	Jan., 1926	March, 1926	May, 1926	June, 1926	July, 1926	August, 1926	Sept., 1926	Oct., 1926	Nov., 1926	Dec. 1926
Washington, D. C.	91–100	91–100	91–100	91–100	91–100	91–100	81–90	81–90	81–90	81–90
Waterbury, Conn.	81–90	61–70	51–60	51–60	51–60	51–60	51–60	51–60	51–60	51–60
Waterloo, Iowa	51–60	51–60	51–60	51–60	51–60	51–60	51–60	51–60	51–60	41–50
Waukesha, Wis.	41–50	[b]	[b]	41–50	41–50	41–50	41–50	41–50	[b]	[b]
Wichita, Kan.	10 or less	10 or less[a]	10 or less[a]	10 or less[a]	10 or less[a]	10 or less[a]	10 or less[a]	10 or less[a]	10 or less[a]	10 or le
Wilkes-Barre, Pa.	81–90	81–90	71–80	71–80	71–80	71–80	71–80	71–80	71–80	71–80
Wilmington, Del.	71–80	61–70	61–70	61–70	61–70	61–70	61–70	61–70	61–70	51–60
Worcester, Mass.	51–60	51–60	51–60	51–60	51–60	51–60	51–60	51–60	51–60	51–60
Yonkers, N. Y.	91–100	91–100	91–100	91–100	91–100	91–100	91–100	91–100	91–100	91–10
York, Pa.	31–40	31–40	31–40	31–40	31–40	31–40	31–40	31–40	31–40	31–40
Youngstown, Ohio	61–70	61–70	61–70	61–70	61–70	61–70	61–70	61–70	61–70	61–70

[a] = Decrease. [b] = No report.

ENTS OF WAGE EARNERS' HOUSES IN SPECIFIED CITIES, JULY, 1914 27—(*Continued*)

nference Board)

arch, 922	July, 1922	Nov., 1922	March, 1923	July, 1923	Nov., 1923	March, 1924	July, 1924	Nov., 1924	March, 1925	July, 1925	Nov., 1925	Dec., 1925
-40	31–40	41–50	51–60	81–90	81–90	81–90	91–100	91–100	91–100	91–100	91–100	91–100
-60	51–60	51–60	51–60	51–60	51–60	61–70	61–70	61–70	61–70	71–80	71–80	81–90
-50	41–50	31–40	41–50	41–50	61–70	61–70	61–70	41–50	61–70	61–70	51–60	51–60
-40	61–70	41–50[b]	51–60	51–60	51–60	51–60	51–60	51–60	41–50	41–50	41–50	41–50
-80	71–80	51–60	51–60	51–60	11–20[b]	10 or less	*10 or less*[c]	*10 or less*[c]	10 or less	10 or less	10 or less	10 or less
-40	41–50	41–50	41–50	41–50	61–70[b]	61–70	71–80	71–80	71–80	81–90	81–90	81–90
-50	41–50	41–50	41–50	41–50	71–80[b]	71–80	61–70	61–70	61–70	71–80	71–80	71–80
-60	51–60	51–60	51–60	51–60	51–60	51–60	51–60	51–60	51–60	51–60	51–60	51–60
-50	51–60	51–60	51–60	91–100	91–100	91–100	91–100	91–100	91–100	91–100	91–100	91–100
-60	51–60	51–60[e]	51–60	31–40	31–40	31–40	31–40	31–40	31–40	31–40	31–40	31–40
-60	51–60	41–50	41–50	41–50	51–60	71–80	71–80	71–80	71–80	51–60	51–60	61–70

[c] Decrease. [d] No change.

[e] Corrected figure, based on better information than that originally available. See National Industrial Conference Board, ost of Living in the United States, 1914–1926," footnote 1, p. 42.

F WAGE EARNERS' HOUSES IN SPECIFIED CITIES, JULY, 1914 TO 927—(*Concluded*)

nference Board)

Jan. 1927	Feb. 1927	March 1927	April 1927	May 1927	June 1927	July 1927	August 1927	Sept. 1927	Oct. 1927	Nov. 1927	Dec. 1927
81–90	81–90	81–90	81–90	81–90	81–90	81–90	81–90	81–80	71–80	71–80	71–80
51–60	41–50	41–50	41–50	31–40	31–40	31–40	31–40	31–40	31–40	31–40	31–40
51–60	51–60	51–60	51–60	51–60	51–60	51–60	51–60	51–60	51–60	51–60	51–60
41–50	41–50	61–70	91–100	91–100	91–100	61–70	61–70	61–70	61–70	61–70	71–60
or less[a]	10 or less[a]	10 or less[a]	10 or less[a]	10 or less[a]	10 or less[a]	10 or less[a]	10 or less[a]	10 or less[a]	10 or less[a]	[b]	10 or less[a]
71–80	71–80	71–80	71–80	71–80	71–80	71–80	71–80	71–80	71–80	71–80	71–80
51–60	51–60	51–60	51–60	51–60	51–60	51–60	51–60	51–60	51–60	51–60	51–60
51–60	41–50	51–60	41–50	41–50	41–50	41–50	41–50	41–50	41–50	41–50	31–40
91–100	91–100	91–100	91–100	91–100	91–100	91–100	81–90	81–90	81–90	81–90	81–90
31–40	31–40	31–40	31–40	31–40	31–40	31–40	31–40	31–40	31–40	31–40	31–40
61–70	61–70	61–70	61–70	61–70	61–70	61–70	61–70	61–70	61–70	61–70	61–70

[a] = Decrease. [b] = No report.

indications that in 1927 this movement had slackened and there is clear evidence in the figures already cited that since 1924 rents have been slowly decreasing.

In the general movement here described, all cities did not participate equally and uniformly. In each city the general tendency was affected by local conditions. Some cities increase rapidly in population, some slowly; some have progressed more or less uniformly, others were subjected in the war years to a sudden expansion, since which time there has been stagnation or retrogression. Just as the force and vigor of the demand varied from city to city, so also did the means taken to supply this demand. In some places the building program had an earlier start than elsewhere. In some it was pushed rapidly, in others slowly. As a result of these local conditions, each city has to some extent been a law unto itself, although out of these varied movements the average stated in the index of changes in the cost of living has been constructed. It can, however, not be taken as representative of any particular locality. What has been the course of rents in the various cities is shown in detail in Table 10.

Clothing

As already noted, expenditure for clothing is a relatively large item in household expenditure, requiring rather more than one-eighth of the family expenditure of wage earners in the period before the war. Of all the main groups of family expenditure clothing was that which at the peak of retail prices in 1920 occupied the highest place, and in the years that followed it has stood at a somewhat higher level than other groups of expenditure.

Separate Articles of Clothing

In Table 11 the average retail prices of twenty-nine selected articles of yard goods and wearing apparel are given for selected dates from 1914 to 1925 and by months for the years 1926 and 1927. Immediately following this table of prices, Table 12 gives the index numbers based on these prices.

Table 11: Average Retail Prices of Selected Articles of Yard Goods and Wearing Apparel on Specified Dates, July, 1914 to December, 1927

(National Industrial Conference Board)

Article	July, 1914	July, 1915	July, 1916	April, 1917	June, 1918	November, 1918	March, 1919	July, 1919	November, 1919	March, 1920	July, 1920	November, 1920	March, 1921	July, 1921	November, 1921	March, 1922	July, 1922	November, 1922	March, 1923	July, 1923	November, 1923	March, 1924	July, 1924	November, 1924	March, 1925	July, 1925	November, 1925	December, 1925
Wool yard goods																												
Serge	$1.00	$1.12	$1.38	$1.72	$2.17	$2.32	$1.96	$2.21	$2.62	$2.97	$2.88	$2.23	$1.71	$1.60	$1.52	$1.47	$1.45	$1.53	$1.63	$1.65	$1.65	$1.69	$1.63	$1.69	$1.69	$1.70	$1.69	$1.70
Poplin	1.50	1.60	1.84	2.23	2.89	2.95	2.53	2.80	3.24	3.62	3.57	2.95	2.25	2.12	2.01	1.97	1.97	2.03	2.18	2.17	2.21	2.20	2.19	2.22	2.27	2.30	2.29	2.24
Broadcloth	2.00	2.16	2.59	3.17	4.04	4.31	3.80	4.25	4.82	5.27	5.15	4.41	3.51	3.26	3.13	3 01	2.99	3.10	3.24	3.29	3.26	3.32	3.27	3.42	3.53	3.54	3.53	3.48
Cotton yard goods																												
Percale	.07½	.09	.12	.16	.25	.27	.22	.26	.32	.39	.42	.28	.20	.18	.18	.18	.18	.19	.20	.21	.20	.22	.21	.21	.21	.21	.21	.21
Gingham	.10	.11	.14	.19	.29	.32	.26	.29	.34	.41	.43	.31	.21	.19	.20	.20	.19	.20	.23	.23	.22	.23	.22	.22	.22	.21	.21	.21
Longcloth	.12½	.13	.17	.21	.29	.31	.26	.29	.34	.43	.44	.30	.22	.19	.20	.20	.19	.20	.23	.23	.22	.23	.23	.23	.23	.22	.22	.22
Fruit of the loom	.15	.16	.19	.24	.32	.35	.28	.34	.39	.47	.48	.28	.23	.21	.23	.22	.23	.24	.26	.26	.25	.25	.25	.25	.25	.25	.25	.25
Voile	.25	.25	.27	.33	.41	.47	.42	.48	.55	.67	.66	.49	.39	.34	.35	.34	.33	.35	.39	.39	.39	.41	.40	.40	.40	.39	.40	.40
Hosiery																												
Men's	.15	.16	.17	.21	.27	.28	.26	.29	.32	.36	.36	.28	.22	.21	.21	.21	.21	.22	.23	.23	.23	.24	.23	.24	.24	.24	.24	.24
Women's	.25	.26	.28	.35	.45	.49	.46	.51	.57	.69	.70	.54	.40	.36	.37	.36	.37	.38	.39	.40	.40	.41	.40	.41	.41	.41	.41	.41
Knit underwear																												
Men's union suits	.50	.52	.63	.77	.99	1.15	.99	1.05	1.28	1.56	1.52	1.40	1.02	.90	.93	.90	.87	.93	.96	.96	1.00	1.03	1.01	1.04	1.03	1.00	1.05	1.03
Women's vests	.10	.11	.12	.16	.20	.23	.21	.22	.26	.33	.33	.29	.22	.20	.20	.20	.19	.20	.21	.22	.23	.24	.23	.23	.23	.22	.23	.24
Muslin underwear																												
Women's combinations	1.00	1.02	1.10	1.29	1.64	1.83	1.61	1.80	2.06	2.43	2.37	1.84	1.37	1.29	1.23	1.22	1.23	1.27	1.36	1.34	1.37	1.38	1.35	1.36	1.35	1.35	1.33	1.31
Suits																												
Men's	15.00	15.57	17.40	19.98	24.44	26.40	25.96	28.17	34.21	40.47	37.17	30.97	23.87	23.01	23.10	22.00	21.87	22.89	24.16	24.53	26.04	25.69	25.40	25.28	25.25	25.54	25.83	25.05
Women's	15.00	15.52	17.93	21.16	25.68	26.15	24.07	28.41	31.51	38.43	34.66	29.65	23.44	22.50	22.02	20.84	21.19	22.81	23.55	23.11	23.18	23.49	22.25	22.91	23.31	23.65	23.97	23.41
Coats																												
Men's	10.00	[a]	[a]	[a]	[a]	19.91	18.39	21.30	26.78	33.02	33.67	27.27	19.09	19.36	19.16	18.13	18.53	19.07	20.57	20.90	21.94	21.04	21.08	21.31	20.96	21.53	21.35	21.09
Women's	10.00	[a]	[a]	[a]	[a]	19.11	17.44	21.59	23.90	30.44	25.59	25.09	18.07	17.15	16.73	15.41	15.54	16.95	17.57	17.29	18.37	18.08	17.17	17.95	18.00	18.05	19.07	19.38
Shirts and blouses																												
Men's work shirts	.50	[a]	[a]	[a]	[a]	1.33	1.16	1.26	1.45	1.64	1.73	1.41	.96	.86	.90[b]	.89	.89	.93	.99	1.00	1.01	1.02	.99	.97	.96	.95	.95	.93
Men's work shirts	1.00	1.06	1.23	1.49	1.86	1.97	1.79	1.91	2.15	2.44	2.49	2.10	1.44	1.32	1.34	1.30	1.31	1.37	1.43	1.45	1.48	1.50	1.45	1.45	1.42	1.43	1.44	1.44
Men's negligee shirts	1.00	[a]	[a]	[a]	[a]	1.79	1.63	1.88	2.24	2.62	2.66	2.10	1.49	1.40	1.37	1.33	1.31	1.37	1.48	1.47	1.51	1.55	1.49	1.50	1.51	1.51	1.54	1.53
Women's blouses	1.00	1.02	1.07	1.25	1 51	1.64	1.55	1.75	2.02	2.39	2.24	1.74	1.47	1.42	1.36	1.31	1.33	1.37	1.42	1.43	1.45	1.47	1.46	1.50	1.52	1.54	1.55	1.61
Overalls	.75	.80	1.01	1.39	1.96	2.14	1.86	1.92	2.26	2.60	2.73	2.23	1.55	1.39	1.38	1.37	1.37	1.47	1.63	1.69	1.72	1.75	1.74	1.68	1.62	1.62	1.61	1.61
Shoes																												
Men's	3.50	3.78	4.31	5.06	5.92	5.88	6.06	6.93	8.42	9.43	9.11	7.86	6.43	5.86	5.55	5.19	5.29	5.39	5.50	5.67	5.64	5.65	5.68	5.67	5.63	5.80	5.69	5.64
Women's	3.00	3.55	4.13	4.96	5.66	5.72	5.92	6.94	8.30	9.28	8.82	8.14	6.34	5.87	5.56	5.18	5.20	5.20	5.25	5.49	5.59	5.54	5.62	5.60	5.57	5.65	5.49	5.59
Gloves																												
Men's dogskin	1.25	1.31	1.54	1.91	2.29	2.27	2.22	2.47	2.69	3.22	3.21	3.28	2.37	2.22	2.11	1.92	1.91	1.87	1.95	1.97	2.00	2.02	2.04	2.01	2.04	2.07	2.06	2.03
Women's cape	1.00	1.09	1.37	1.73	2.06	2.00	2.02	2.25	2.60	3.17	3.16	3.13	2.34	2.11	1.99	1.80	1.76	1.82	1.93	1.96	1.98	1.95	1.96	1.92	1.97	2.02	2.04	2.03
Hats																												
Men's felt	2.00	2.00	2.35	2.71	3.33	3.49	3.43	3.66	4.34	5.06	5.28	5.01	3.74	3.42	3.21	2.99	2.95	3.00	3.21	3.29	3.23	3.30	3.35	3.40	3.45	3.63	3.63	3.55
Women's velvet	1.50	1.54	1.68	2.02	2.61	2.79	2.80	3.16	3.49	4.34	4.24	3.41	2.97	2.50	2.47	2.33	2.27	2.63	2.61	2.76	3.05	3.03	2.97	2.85	2.80	3.06	3.26	2.94
Women's straw	1.00	1.04	1.15	1.43	1.78	[a]	1.96	2.11	[a]	2.87	2.85	2.93	2.53	1.98	1.82	1.91	1.76	1.65	1.96	2.00	2.13	2.11	2.17	2.02	2.34	2.28	2.21	2-06

[a] No report.

[b] This is a corrected figure, based on a recomputation of prices.

Table 11: Average Retail Prices of Selected Articles of Yard Goods and Wearing Apparel, on Specified Dates, July, 1914 to December, 1927—(*Continued*)

(National Industrial Conference Board)

Articles	July, 1914	January, 1926	February, 1926	March, 1926	April, 1926	May, 1926	June, 1926	July, 1926	August, 1926	September, 1926	October, 1926	November, 1926	December, 1926
Wool yard goods													
Serge	$1.00	1.691	1.704	1.658	1.656	1.653	1.662	1.640	1.665	1.653	1.654	1.647	1.644
Poplin	1.50	2.278	2.272	2.237	2.220	2.219	2.232	2.171	2.188	2.178	2.188	2.097	2.084
Broadcloth	2.00	3.507	3.541	3.462	3.452	3.475	3.437	3.387	3.367	3.372	3.388	3.364	3.333
Cotton yard goods													
Percale	.07½	.210	.207	.205	.204	.208	.204	.203	.205	.206	.208	.202	.204
Gingham	.10	.213	.210	.210	.210	.212	.209	.206	.201	.204	.208	.198	.200
Longcloth	.12½	.222	.222	.221	.220	.218	.216	.212	.211	.213	.213	.210	.209
Fruit of the loom	.15	.253	.253	.249	.248	.251	.247	.243	.247	.244	.244	.241	.241
Voile	.25	.397	.392	.392	.389	.386	.387	.376	.375	.375	.374	.366	.368
Hosiery													
Men's	.15	.243	.240	.239	.236	.244	.242	.239	.239	.238	.245	.236	.236
Women's	.25	.413	.414	.401	.404	.411	.421	411	.414	.413	.418	.417	.413
Knit underwear													
Men's union suits	.50	1.047	1.019	1.011	.988	.998	.985	.980	.991	.997	1.008	1.006	1.014
Women's vests	.10	.234	227	.227	.231	.230	.229	.230	.249	.233	.236	.237	.241
Muslin underwear													
Women's combinations	1.00	1.330	1.316	1.322	1.293	1.279	1.277	1.266	1.300	1.277	1.277	1.300	1.323
Suits													
Men's	15.00	25 434	25.408	25.272	25.454	25.351	24.913	24.845	24.664	25.244	24.926	25.018	25.060
Women's	15.00	23.283	23.224	23.676	23.111	22.986	23.097	22.364	22.655	22.892	22.325	22.120	21.768
Coats													
Men's	10.00	21.207	20.964	20.900	21 019	21.073	20.818	21.092	20.717	21.186	21.037	21.601	21.514
Women's	10.00	18.639	19.614	19.642	19.634	19.083	18.846	18.556	17.985	19.179	19.634	19.826	19.362
Shirts and blouses													
Men's work shirts	.50	.933	.924	.923	.920	.931	.871	.922	.916	.932	.910	.910	.915
Men's work shirts	1.00	1.435	1.430	1.401	1.378	1.391	1.286	1.372	1.378	1.354	1.346	1.348	1.349
Men's negligee shirts	1.00	1.521	1 512	1.518	1.519	1.530	1.527	1 510	1.517	1.528	1.501	1.487	1.513
Women's blouses	1 00	1.610	1.608	1.644	1.626	1.653	1.630	1.579	1.591	1.597	1.587	1.586	1.614
Overalls	.75	1.585	1.602	1.598	1.601	1.603	1.573	1.600	1.534	1.564	1.538	1.507	1.515
Shoes													
Men's	3.50	5.688	5.708	5.554	5.604	5.602	5.419	5.426	5.344	5.443	5.327	5.337	5.300
Women's	3.00	5.701	5.691	5.557	5.636	5 735	5.598	5.577	5.530	5.440	5.327	5.330	5.418
Gloves													
Men's dogskin	1.25	2 020	2.050	2.019	2.038	2.082	2.048	2.024	2.034	2.059	2.058	2.059	2.074
Women's cape	1.00	2.023	2.020	2.079	2.071	2.056	2.090	2.175	2.165	2.111	2 162	2.120	2.149
Hats													
Men's felt	2.00	3.645	3.646	3.704	3.644	3.735	3.645	3.665	3.688	3.641	3.703	3.644	3.678
Women's velvet	1.50	2.984	2.887	2.717	2.817	2.550	2.728	2.874	2.919	2.899	2.911	2.775	2.913
Women's straw	1.50	2.452	2 323	2.452	2.394	2.365	2.444	2.361	2.256	2.057	1.967	1.934	2.069

Table 11: Average Retail Prices of Selected Articles of Yard Goods and Wearing Apparel, on Specified Dates, July, 1914 to December, 1927—(*Concluded*)

(National Industrial Conference Board)

Articles	July, 1914	January, 1927	February, 1927	March, 1927	April, 1927	May, 1927	June, 1927	July, 1927	August, 1927	September, 1927	October, 1927	November, 1927	December, 1927
Wool yard goods													
Serge	$1.00	1.616	1.651	1.661	1.645	1.641	1.633	1.661	1.646	1.637	1.633	1.627	1.648
Poplin	1.50	2.053	2.064	2.120	2.117	2.096	2.059	2.071	2.060	2.056	2.056	2.058	2.070
Broadcloth	2.00	3.261	3.290	3.352	3.324	3.303	3.310	3.308	3 190	3.278	3.259	3.293	3.321
Cotton yard goods													
Percale	.075	.199	.201	.203	.199	.200	.198	.199	.199	.201	.206	.209	.210
Gingham	.10	.194	.200	.202	.197	.198	.194	.193	.194	.195	.199	.200	.201
Longcloth	.125	.204	.205	.207	.203	.204	.202	.202	.204	.204	.204	.209	.209
Fruit of the loom	.15	.236	.238	.237	.234	.234	.234	.236	.234	.236	.239	.241	.243
Voile	.25	.357	.356	.364	.351	.361	.346	.349	.350	.352	.355	.354	.358
Hosiery													
Men's	.15	.239	.247	.243	.247	.242	.246	.241	.242	.243	.238	.244	.240
Women's	.25	.402	.424	.427	.470	.434	.415	.413	.402	.394	.407	.401	.407
Knit underwear													
Men's union suits	.50	.975	.996	.982	.980	.951	.944	.935	.954	.964	.967	1.006	.996
Women's vests	.10	.244	.264	.249	.247	.245	.242	.248	.255	.252	.251	.267	.257
Muslin underwear													
Women's combinations	1.00	1.320	1.294	1.286	1.295	1.284	1.294	1.291	1.327	1.305	1.290	1.281	1.298
Suits													
Men's	15.00	24.468	24.394	24.498	24.359	24.124	24.152	24.221	24.260	24.395	24.411	24.149	24.641
Women's	15.00	22.165	21.722	22.085	21.915	21.989	21.452	21.813	21.933	21.655	21.450	21.661	21.529
Coats													
Men's	10.00	20.918	21.052	20.866	20.606	20.535	20.009	20.253	20.423	21.124	20.890	21.015	21.033
Women's	10.00	19.108	19.183	18.478	19.125	19.413	18.420	18.773	18.892	19.099	18.929	19.162	19.681
Shirts and blouses													
Men's work shirts	.50	.909	.914	.905	.896	.897	.891	.882	.898	.904	.968	.898	.909
Men's work shirts	1.00	1.362	1.344	1.348	1.336	1.322	1.319	1.291	1.312	1.342	1.312	1.311	1.304
Men's negligee shirts	1.00	1.487	1.480	1.472	1.470	1.455	1.444	1.449	1.453	1.488	1.461	1 478	1.472
Women's blouses	1.00	1.654	1.662	1.683	1.641	1.619	1.632	1.643	1.636	1.602	1.587	1.594	1.594
Overalls	.75	1.500	1.488	1.486	1.477	1.464	1.462	1.462	1.448	1.440	1.461	1.466	1.507
Shoes													
Men's	3.50	5.342	5.218	5.317	5.361	5.370	5.384	5.380	5.420	5.340	5.295	5.227	5.317
Women's	3.00	5.450	5.216	5.406	5.401	5.349	5.479	5.369	5.364	5.365	5.276	5.183	5.215
Gloves													
Men's dogskin	1.25	2.055	2.078	2.126	2.117	2.107	2.069	2.058	2.135	2.140	2.130	2.158	2.159
Women's cape	1.00	2.215	2.271	2.288	2.228	2.257	2.261	2.178	2.282	2.270	2.227	2.299	2.276
Hats													
Men's felt	2.00	3.624	3.768	3.851	3.767	3.747	3.714	3.646	3.771	3.774	3.825	3.782	3.857
Women's velvet	1.50	2.853	2.680	2.778	2.865	2.679	2.698	2.680	2.668	2.807	2.855	2.906	2.843
Women's straw	1.50	2.114	2.158	2.294	2.543	2.696	2.444	2.307	2.224	1.998	2.111	2.132	2.089

Table 12: Index Numbers of Average Retail Prices of Selected Yard Goods and Wearing Apparel, on Specified Dates, July, 1914 to December, 1927

Base, July, 1914 = 100

(National Industrial Conference Board)

Article	July, 1914	July, 1915	July, 1916	April, 1917	June, 1918	November, 1918	March, 1919	July, 1919	November, 1919	March, 1920	July, 1920	November, 1920	March, 1921	July, 1921	November, 1921	March, 1922	July, 1922	November, 1922	March, 1923	July, 1923	November, 1923	March, 1924	July, 1924	November, 1924	March, 1925	July, 1925	November, 1925	December, 1925
Wool yard goods																												
Serge	100	111.9	138.1	172.3	216.7	231.6	195.8	221.0	261.9	296.6	287.6	223.1	171.3	160.0	152.0	147.0	145.0	153.0	163.0	165.0	165.0	169.0	163.0	169.0	168.7	169.9	168.0	168.0
Poplin	100	106.4	122.4	148.4	192.5	196.4	168.9	186.6	216.0	241.3	237.7	196.5	150.1	141.3	134.0	131.3	131.3	135.3	145.3	144.7	147.3	146.7	146.0	148.0	151.1	153.0	153.0	153.0
Broadcloth	100	108.2	129.7	158.4	202.1	215.4	190.2	212.4	241.0	263.3	257.6	220.5	175.3	163.0	156.5	150.5	149.5	155.0	162.0	164.5	163.0	166.0	163.5	171.0	176.5	177.0	176.0	175.0
Cotton yard goods																												
Percale	100	118.0	160.0	211.0	338.4	364.4	290.7	346.7	426.7	522.2	560.0	366.9	265.7	240.0	240.0	240.0	240.0	253.3	266.7	280.0	266.7	293.3	280.0	280.0	278.7	280.0	281.0	282.0
Gingham	100	112.5	143.3	193.4	289.6	316.7	261.0	290.0	338.0	414.0	433.5	313.9	210.3	190.0	200.0	200.0	190.0	200.0	230.0	230.0	220.0	230.0	220.0	220.0	217.0	211.0	213.0	213.0
Longcloth	100	107.2	132.9	164.4	235.0	251.1	204.0	232.0	274.4	314.6	349.2	240.6	174.5	152.0	160.0	160.0	152.0	168.0	184.0	184.0	176.0	184.0	184.0	184.0	180.8	176.0	175.0	175.0
Fruit of the loom	100	107.5	125.1	157.7	215.3	236.5	186.6	226.7	260.7	312.6	321.1	187.9	152.7	140.0	153.3	146.7	153.3	160.0	173.3	173.3	166.7	166.7	166.7	166.7	167.3	167.3	168.0	169.0
Voile	100	101.0	109.9	130.7	165.8	187.9	167.2	192.0	221.2	266.4	263.6	196.0	155.5	136.0	140.0	136.0	132.0	140.0	156.0	156.0	156.0	164.0	160.0	160.0	160.0	157.6	157.0	158.0
Hosiery																												
Men's	100	103.7	115.8	141.8	183.3	189.0	172.0	193.3	208.0	240.0	239.3	188.7	148.9	140.0	140.0	140.0	140.0	146.7	153.3	153.3	153.3	160.0	153.3	160.0	159.3	159.3	160.0	161.0
Women's	100	102.6	113.9	138.5	181.5	194.2	184.4	204.0	226.0	275.2	279.2	217.6	158.0	144.0	148.0	144.0	148.0	152.0	156.0	160.0	160.0	164.0	160.0	164.0	162.8	162.0	162.0	162.0
Knit underwear																												
Men's union suits	100	103.9	126.1	153.3	197.2	229.7	198.0	210.0	256.8	311.6	303.0	280.3	204.8	180.0	186.0	180.0	174.0	186.0	192.0	192.0	200.0	206.0	202.0	208.0	205.6	200.2	203.0	202.0
Women's vests	100	105.2	121.4	156.9	198.4	227.9	208.0	220.0	263.0	330.0	329.7	294.5	221.6	200.0	200.0	200.0	190.0	200.0	210.0	220.0	230.0	240.0	230.0	230.0	232.0	224.0	225.0	224.0
Muslin underwear																												
Women's combination	100	102.3	110.2	129.1	163.9	182.7	161.0	180.0	206.0	242.5	237.0	184.1	137.1	129.0	123.0	122.0	123.0	127.0	136.0	134.0	137.0	138.0	135.0	136.0	135.2	134.6	134.0	133.0
Suits																												
Men's	100	103.8	116.0	133.2	163.0	176.0	173.1	187.7	228.1	269.8	247.8	206.5	159.1	153.4	154.0	146.7	145.8	152.6	161.1	163.5	173.6	171.3	169.3	168.5	168.4	170.3	170.0	170.0
Women's	100	103.5	119.5	141.1	171.2	174.4	160.5	189.4	210.7	256.2	231.0	197.7	156.3	150.0	146.8	138.9	141.3	152.1	157.0	154.1	154.5	156.6	148.3	152.7	155.4	157.7	159.0	159.0
Coats																												
Men's	100	[a]	[a]	[a]	[a]	199.1	183.9	213.0	267.8	330.2	336.7	272.7	190.9	193.6	191.6	181.3	185.3	190.7	205.7	209.0	219.4	210.4	210.8	213.1	209.6	215.3	214.0	213.0
Women's	100	[a]	[a]	[a]	[a]	191.1	174.4	215.9	239.0	304.4	255.9	250.9	180.7	171.5	167.3	154.1	155.4	169.5	175.7	172.9	183.7	180.8	171.7	179.5	180.0	180.5	190.0	192.0
Shirts and blouses																												
Men's work shirts	100	[a]	[a]	[a]	[a]	266.1	231.0	252.0	289.6	328.4	346.4	281.4	192.4	172.0	179.0[b]	178.0	178.0	186.0	198.0	200.0	202.0	204.0	198.0	194.0	191.8	189.6	190.0	188.0
Men's work shirts	100	106.0	122.7	148.8	186.0	196.7	79.0	191.0	215.4	243.7	248.6	200.2	143.6	132.0	134.0	130.0	131.0	137.0	143.0	145.0	148.0	150.0	145.0	145.0	142.0	143.4	144.0	144.0
Men's negligee shirts	100	[a]	[a]	[a]	[a]	179.4	163.4	188.0	224.3	262.4	265.5	209.6	149.2	140.0	137.0	133.0	131.0	137.0	148.0	147.0	151.0	155.0	149.0	150.0	150.8	150.7	152.0	152.0
Women's blouses	100	101.7	106.7	125.0	150.5	164.2	155.3	175.0	201.6	239.2	223.8	174.3	147.0	142.0	136.0	131.0	133.0	137.0	142.0	143.0	145.0	147.0	146.0	150.0	151.7	154.1	156.0	156.0
Overalls	100	107.0	135.3	185.0	260.9	285.7	248.3	256.0	300.7	347.2	364.3	297.5	206.8	185.3	184.0	182.7	182.7	196.0	217.3	225.3	229.3	233.3	232.0	224.0	216.4	215.7	214.0	215.0
Shoes																												
Men's	100	107.9	123.1	144.6	169.1	168.1	173.2	198.0	240.4	269.3	260.4	224.7	182.5	167.4	158.6	148.3	151.1	154.0	157.1	162.0	161.1	161.4	162.3	162.0	160.8	165.7	164.0	164.0
Women's	100	118.3	137.7	165.4	188.5	190.5	197.4	231.2	276.3	309.4	294.0	271.4	211.4	195.7	185.3	172.7	173.3	173.3	175.0	183.0	186.3	184.7	184.0	186.7	185.8	188.4	188.0	189.0
Gloves																												
Men's dogskin	100	104.6	123.4	152.6	183.5	181.4	177.8	197.6	215.2	257.7	257.1	262.3	189.6	177.6	168.8	153.6	152.8	149.6	156.0	157.6	160.0	161.6	163.2	160.8	163.1	165.4	165.0	166.0
Women's cape	100	108.9	137.0	173.4	206.5	200.2	202.2	225.0	259.8	317.1	315.6	313.3	234.4	211.0	199.0	180.0	176.0	182.0	193.0	196.0	198.0	195.0	196.0	192.0	197.2	202.1	202.0	203.0
Hats																												
Men's felt	100	[c]	117.4	135.5	166.5	174.7	171.3	183.0	217.0	253.2	263.8	250.7	187.2	171.0	160.5	149.5	147.5	150.0	160.5	164.5	161.5	165.0	167.5	170.0	172.7	181.7	185.0	187.0
Women's velvet	100	102.7	111.8	134.9	173.7	186.1	186.4	210.7	232.7	289.3	282.9	227.1	198.3	166.7	164.7	155.3	151.3	175.3	174.0	184.0	203.3	202.0	198.0	190.0	186.8	204.1	206.0	201.0
Women's straw	100	103.6	115.0	142.5	178.0	[a]	196.1	211.0	[a]	287.4	284.9	292.6	253.3	198.0	182.0	191.0	176.0	165.0	196.0	200.0	213.0	211.0	217.0	202.0	233.5	228.1	232.0	238.0

[a] No report.

[b] This is a corrected figure, based on a recomputation of prices.

[c] No change

TABLE 12: INDEX NUMBERS OF AVERAGE RETAIL PRICES OF SELECTED YARD GOODS AND WEARING APPAREL, ON SPECIFIED DATES, JULY, 1914 TO DECEMBER, 1927—(*Continued*)

Base, July, 1914 = 100

(National Industrial Conference Board)

Articles	July, 1914	January, 1926	February, 1926	March, 1926	April, 1926	May, 1926	June, 1926	July, 1926	August, 1926	September, 1926	October, 1926	November, 1926	December, 1926
Wool yard goods													
Serge	100	170	171	166	166	166	167	165	167	166	166	165	165
Poplin	100	152	152	150	149	149	150	146	147	146	147	141	140
Broadcloth	100	176	178	174	173	174	172	169	168	168	169	168	166
Cotton yard goods													
Percale	100	281	277	274	273	278	273	272	275	276	279	271	274
Gingham	100	213	210	210	210	212	209	206	201	204	208	198	200
Longcloth	100	177	177	176	175	173	171	168	167	169	169	167	166
Fruit of the loom	100	169	169	166	165	167	164	161	164	162	162	160	160
Voile	100	159	157	157	156	155	155	151	151	151	151	148	149
Hosiery													
Men's	100	163	161	160	158	163	162	160	160	159	164	158	158
Women's	100	164	164	159	160	163	167	163	164	164	166	166	164
Knit underwear													
Men's union suits	100	209	203	201	196	198	195	194	196	197	199	199	201
Women's vests	100	234	227	227	231	230	229	230	249	233	236	237	241
Muslin underwear													
Women's combinations	100	133	132	133	130	129	129	128	131	129	129	131	133
Suits													
Men's	100	170	170	169	170	169	166	166	165	169	167	168	168
Women's	100	155	155	158	154	153	154	149	151	153	149	148	146
Coats													
Men's	100	212	210	209	210	211	208	211	207	212	211	217	216
Women's	100	187	197	197	197	191	189	186	180	192	197	199	194
Shirts and blouses													
Men's work shirts	100	186	184	184	183	185	173	183	182	185	181	181	182
Men's work shirts	100	144	144	141	139	140	129	138	139	137	136	136	136
Men's negligee shirts	100	153	152	153	153	154	154	152	153	154	151	150	153
Women's blouses	100	160	160	164	162	165	163	158	159	160	159	159	162
Overalls	100	211	213	213	213	213	209	213	204	208	204	200	201
Shoes													
Men's	100	163	164	160	161	161	156	156	154	157	154	154	153
Women's	100	190	190	185	188	191	186	185	184	181	177	177	180
Gloves													
Men's dogskin	100	162	164	161	162	166	163	161	162	164	164	164	165
Women's cape	100	202	202	208	207	206	210	219	218	213	218	214	217
Hats													
Men's felt	100	183	183	186	183	187	183	184	185	183	186	183	185
Women's velvet	100	199	192	181	188	170	182	192	195	194	195	186	195
Women's straw	100	245	232	245	239	236	244	236	226	206	197	194	208

Table 12: Index Numbers of Average Retail Prices of Selected Yard Goods and Wearing Apparel, on Specified Dates, July, 1914 to December, 1927—(*Concluded*)

Base, July, 1914 = 100

(National Industrial Conference Board)

Articles	July, 1914	January, 1927	February, 1927	March, 1927	April, 1927	May, 1927	June, 1927	July, 1927	August, 1927	September, 1927	October, 1927	November, 1927	December, 1927
Wool yard goods													
Serge	100	162	166	167	165	165	164	167	165	164	164	163	165
Poplin	100	138	138	142	142	141	138	139	138	138	138	138	139
Broadcloth	100	162	163	166	165	164	164	164	158	162	161	163	164
Cotton yard goods													
Percale	100	267	270	273	268	269	266	267	267	270	276	280	281
Gingham	100	194	200	202	197	198	194	193	194	195	199	200	201
Longcloth	100	162	163	165	162	163	161	161	163	163	163	167	167
Fruit of the loom	100	157	158	157	155	155	155	156	155	156	158	159	160
Voile	100	145	145	148	143	147	141	142	142	143	144	144	146
Hosiery													
Men's	100	160	165	162	165	162	165	162	163	164	161	165	162
Women's	100	160	169	170	187	173	165	164	160	157	162	160	162
Knit underwear													
Men's union suits	100	193	197	194	194	188	187	185	189	191	192	200	198
Women's vests	100	244	264	249	247	245	242	248	255	252	251	267	257
Muslin underwear													
Women's combinations	100	133	130	129	130	129	130	130	134	132	131	130	132
Suits													
Men's	100	164	164	165	164	162	162	162	162	163	163	161	164
Women's	100	149	146	148	147	147	143	145	146	144	143	144	143
Coats													
Men's	100	210	211	209	206	205	200	202	204	211	209	210	210
Women's	100	191	192	185	191	194	184	187	188	190	188	190	195
Shirts and blouses													
Men's work shirts	100	181	182	180	178	178	177	175	178	179	177	177	179
Men's work shirts	100	137	135	135	134	133	133	130	132	135	132	132	131
Men's negligee shirts	100	150	149	148	148	147	146	146	146	150	147	149	148
Women's blouses	100	166	167	169	165	163	164	165	164	161	160	161	161
Overalls	100	199	197	197	196	194	194	194	192	191	194	195	200
Shoes													
Men's	100	154	150	153	154	154	154	154	155	153	152	150	153
Women's	100	181	173	179	179	177	181	177	177	177	174	171	172
Gloves													
Men's dogskin	100	164	166	170	169	168	165	164	170	170	169	171	171
Women's cape	100	224	230	232	226	229	229	221	232	231	227	234	232
Hats													
Men's felt	100	182	189	193	189	188	186	183	189	189	192	190	194
Women's velvet	100	191	179	186	192	180	181	180	179	188	191	194	190
Women's straw	100	213	217	231	256	271	246	232	224	201	212	214	210

The general tendencies of these prices were described in a former volume as follows:

"It is quite apparent that the advance in the price of some cotton yard goods exceeded all other price advances and that even work shirts and overalls, which increased in cost more than any other articles of wearing apparel, never approached the level of prices of the heavier, coarser yard goods of which they were made. It is apparent, too, that prices of cotton goods went far higher than those of wool, and that prices of the coarser and less expensive goods went higher than prices of the sheerer and more expensive articles. Some yard goods prices were still going up in 1920, along with the advance for a number of articles made from them, when other clothing prices had turned downward. The entire movement, however, has for the most part been characterized by the maintenance of the relative position of the different grades of goods,[1] the cheaper, coarser grades showing continuously a relatively higher level since 1914 than the finer and originally more expensive articles.

"Yard goods prices in general at first went higher than the prices of articles made from them, but ready-made garments of wool soon caught up with the price of these yard goods. Yard goods prices did not drop so low nor stay down so long as prices of many other articles. But, while at the peak of prices there was a wide range of difference between the largest and the smallest increase shown, since 1921 these differences have not been so marked. A wardrobe consisting partly of goods ready to wear and partly made at home from yard goods prior to 1920 would have shown a greater increase in cost above basic prices in 1914 than one consisting entirely of ready-made articles. Later, this difference would not have been so great."[2]

The comparative trends of the prices of cotton yard goods and the articles made from cotton are shown in Chart 5. A similar comparison between woolen garments and woolen materials is found in Chart 6.

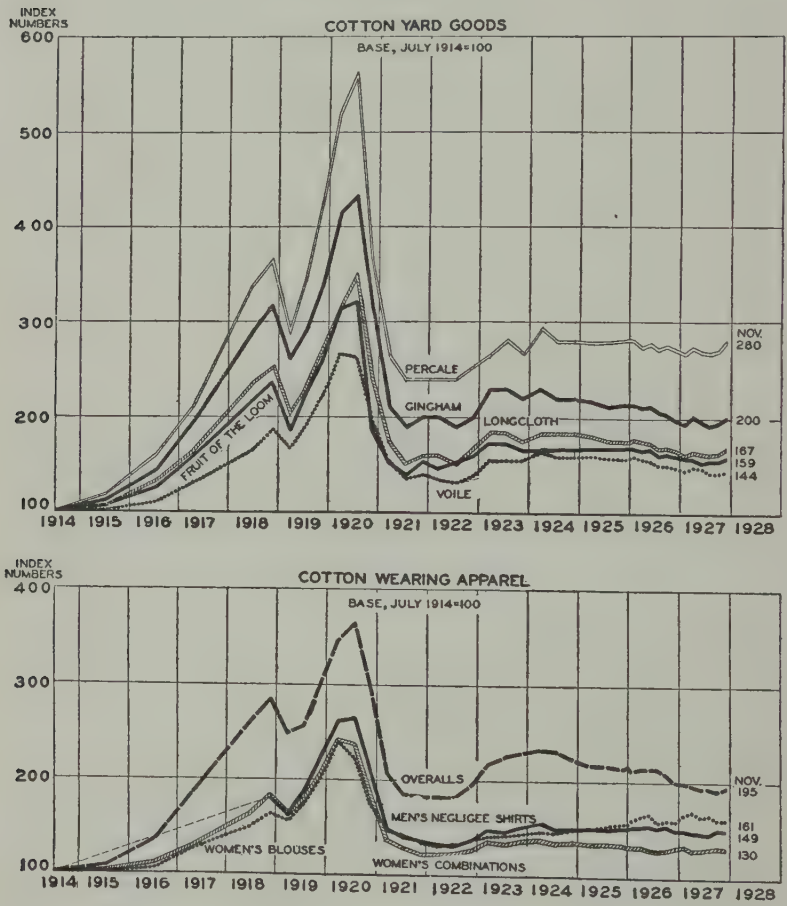
Other clothing articles follow the same general trends. It may be noted that in December, 1927 a few articles of

[1] Except the price of poplin, which has not been much in demand in recent years.

[2] "The Cost of Living in the United States 1914–1926, *op. cit.*," p. 134.

clothing, women's vests, men's coats, women's blouses, women's gloves and women's straw hats stood at price levels

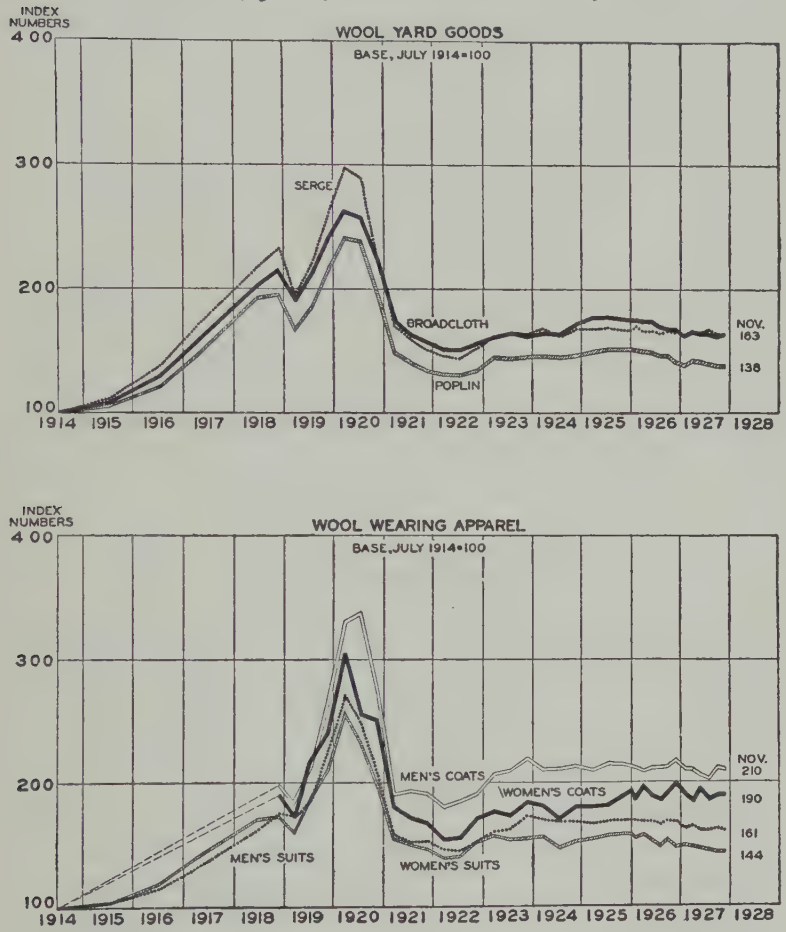
CHART 5: INDEX NUMBERS OF AVERAGE RETAIL PRICES OF SELECTED COTTON YARD GOODS AND COTTON WEARING APPAREL, JULY, 1914 TO DECEMBER, 1927



double or more than double those of 1914, while among yard goods ginghams and percale had a like position. The lowest price in comparison with the 1914 level was that of

women's muslin combinations. Relatively low prices, less than fifty per cent in advance of the 1914 level, were shown also among garments, by women's suits and men's work shirts,

CHART 6: INDEX NUMBERS OF AVERAGE RETAIL PRICES OF SELECTED WOOL YARD GOODS AND WOOL WEARING APPAREL, JULY, 1914 TO DECEMBER, 1927



and among yard goods, by poplin and voile. It is, moreover, interesting to observe that where a direct comparison is possible between men's and women's clothing it was usually found

Table 13: Index Numbers of the Retail Cost of Clothing, Based on Average Prices on Specified Dates, July, 1914 to December, 1927, Weighted According to Their Consumption Importance

Base, July, 1914 = 100

(National Industrial Conference Board)

Date	Men's Clothing	Women's Clothing	All Clothing
June, 1918	173.3[a]	171.4[a]	177.0[a]
November, 1918	190.3[a]	188.1[a]	193.0[a]
March, 1919	180.8[a]	175.0[a]	181.0[a]
July, 1919	201.0	199.0	200.0
November, 1919	241.2	229.5	235.4
March, 1920	281.7	271.5	276.6
July, 1920	277.0[b]	256.2	266.4
November, 1920	235.6	219.3	227.5
March, 1921	178.3[b]	170.4	174.4
July, 1921	169.4	159.4	164.4
November, 1921	167.2[b]	155.0	161.1[b]
March, 1922	159.4	147.9	153.7
July, 1922	159.9	148.3	154.1
November, 1922	165.2	155.3	160.3
March, 1923	174.4	162.0	168.3
July, 1923	177.2	162.2	169.7
November, 1923	182.8	165.2	174.1
March, 1924	181.4	167.3	174.4
July, 1924	180.4	162.0	171.2
November, 1924	180.7	164.4	172.6
March, 1925	179.5	166.0	172.8
July, 1925	182.2	167.2	174.7
November, 1925	181.6	172.1	176.9
December, 1925	181.6	172.4	177.0
January, 1926	181	173	177
February, 1926	180	172	176
March, 1926	179	173	176
April, 1926	179	171	175
May, 1926	180	170	175
June, 1926	177	170	174
July, 1926	177	168	173
August, 1926	176	169	173
September, 1926	179	169	174
October, 1926	178	167	173
November, 1926	179	167	173
December, 1926	179	168	174
January, 1927	176	169	173
February, 1927	176	167	172
March, 1927	176	168	172
April, 1927	175	169	172
May, 1927	174	168	171
June, 1927	172	166	169
July, 1927	172	166	169
August, 1927	173	167	170
September, 1927	175	166	171
October, 1927	175	165	170
November, 1927	175	166	171
December, 1927	176	166	171

[a] Index numbers are based on figures in the more expensive of two sets of trial budgets; the total for all clothing is not an average of the two but is somewhat higher, in order to take into account the fact that less expensive clothing up to that time had increased more in cost than better grades. See National Industrial Conference Board, "The Cost of Living in the United States, 1914–1926," pp. 34–35.

[b] Revised figure.

that, at the peak of prices, women's clothing had advanced to higher levels than men's clothing, and that the same relative positions were generally maintained in the subsequent downward movement. At the end of 1927, in such articles as shoes, gloves and hats, the level of prices for women was higher than that for men. In the matter of coats and suits, however, the prices of men's clothing were at higher levels at the peak and are higher today than the prices of women's clothing.

Clothing Budgets

In order to secure an expression of the price change in clothing for inclusion in the general index, the indexes of these prices are combined in a men's budget and a women's budget in each of which the indexes are weighted according to the importance of the articles in consumption. The average of the two budget indexes gives the general clothing price index. The results are shown in Table 13.

If in these figures the index for men's clothing is always higher than that for women's clothing, it is because the articles in the budget which absorb the largest share of expenditure, the outer garments, have advanced more in price, compared with 1914, for men than they have for women.

Fuel and Light

Table 14 shows the general results of the calculations of the index number for fuel and light.

There is a marked divergence in the course of the two elements which make up the combined total. Coal rose at the peak, which occurred in November, 1920, to a point 128% above the 1914 level and, though it has receded in some degree, is still high, being in December, 1927 as much as 84% above the 1914 price level. The recession from the peak price, therefore, has been about one-fifth. On the other hand, gas and electricity rose only 55% and at the end of 1927 stood only 22% above the price level of 1914.

Coal

The different coal prices which enter into the index of coal have not been subject throughout to the same development.

Table 14: Index Numbers of the Cost of Coal, Gas and Electricity for Household Use, Weighted According to Consumption, on Specified Dates, July, 1914 to December, 1927[1]

Base, July, 1914=100

(National Industrial Conference Board)

Date	Coal	Gas and Electricity Combined[a]	Coal, Gas and Electricity Combined
July, 1914	100	100	100
July, 1915	[b]	[b]	102[b]
July, 1916	[b]	[b]	104[b]
July, 1917	[b]	[b]	126[b]
June, 1918	[c]	[c]	135[c]
November, 1918	[c]	[c]	140[c]
March, 1919	[c]	[c]	142[c]
July, 1919	[c]	[c]	142[c]
November, 1919	165	110	148
March, 1920	168	111	149
July, 1920	192	115	166
November, 1920	228	145	200
March, 1921	205	153	187
July, 1921	191	155	179
November, 1921	191	155	179
March, 1922	184	155	174
July, 1922	184	155	174
November, 1922	207	147	186
March, 1923	206	146	186
July, 1923	192	146	176
November, 1923	193	143	176
March, 1924	187	142	172
July, 1924	178	142	166
November, 1924	182	142	168
March, 1925	182	143	169
July, 1925	176	144	165
November, 1925	190[d]	122[a]	167[d]
December, 1925	188[d]	122[e]	166[d]
January, 1926	189[d]	122	166[d]
February, 1926	195[d]	118	169[d]
March, 1926	190	118	166
April, 1926	184	118	162
May, 1926	179	118	158
June, 1926	179	118	158
July, 1926	179	118	158
August, 1926	180	121	160
September, 1926	182	121	161
October, 1926	185	121	163
November, 1926	195	121	170
December, 1926	194	121	169
January, 1927	192	121	168
February, 1927	190	121	167
March, 1927	189	122	166
April, 1927	181	122	161
May, 1927	179	122	160
June, 1927	180	122	160
July, 1927	180	122	160
August, 1927	181	122	161
September, 1927	183	122	162
October, 1927	184	122	163
November, 1927	184	122	163
December, 1927	184	122	163

[1] For footnotes to this table see p. 109 of this volume.

The varying costs of the different elements are shown in Table 15.

The peak of coal prices was reached in November, 1920. At that time, while bituminous coal stood at a level of 246.6 compared with 1914, anthracite coal had advanced to 209.2. The reaction which followed carried the bituminous index to 171.7 in July, 1922, but anthracite fell only to 194.6. While both indexes increased above the 200 mark in November, 1922, anthracite prices have consistently held to this level since that time, while bituminous prices fell below it in July, 1923, and have not since then attained this level. In other words, the bituminous item appears to have pulled up the general coal index in the early part of the period under review and to have depressed it in the latter part of the period.

On these changes in coal prices the volume in the "Cost of Living in the United States, 1914–1926" comments[1] as follows:

"Through 1920, the trend of all coal prices was upward, distinctly so between November, 1919 and November, 1920, when threatened strikes, presidential commissions and increased wages combined with the greatly accelerated industrial demand attendant on the post-war business boom to increase cost of production or create a relative scarcity. In

[a] Owing to the fact that changes in the cost of gas and electricity were only roughly estimated until November, 1922, largely on the basis of gas costs, and owing to the fact that the index for later dates was computed by linking the percentages of change within specified periods on to the original index, the index for gas and electricity combined tended to be higher until November, 1925, than would have been the case had the index been computed from the beginning with a weight of 2 for gas and 1 for electricity. In November, 1925, the combined gas and electricity index was computed by comparing costs directly with costs in July, 1914, and weighting gas cost changes 2 and electricity 1.

[b] Index numbers were not computed for coal, gas and electricity separately; the combined figure was interpolated on the basis of the best data then available. Research Report No. 17, *op. cit.*, p. 29; *ibid.*, No. 25, p. 20.

[c] Although coal prices were collected and analyzed, beginning in June, 1918, index numbers were not computed for coal, gas and electricity separately. Research Report No. 9, *op. cit.*, pp. 65–70; *ibid.*, No. 14, pp. 19–23; *ibid.*, No. 17, pp. 20–23; *ibid.*, No. 19, pp. 20–22; *ibid.*, No. 25, p. 20.

[d] Owing to the anthracite strike, the coal index includes estimates based on prices of anthracite substitutes.

[e] This is the index number for November, 1925.

[1] National Industrial Conference Board, "The Cost of Living in the United States, 1914–1926," p. 138.

TABLE 15: INDEX NUMBERS OF COAL PRICES, JULY, 1914 TO DECEMBER, 1927

Base, July, 1914 = 100

(National Industrial Conference Board)

	Bituminous	Anthracite			Total Coal
		Stove	Chestnut	Combined	
March, 1919	156.9	154.5	152.8	..	..
July, 1919	155.5	156.6	154.8	..	..
November, 1919	166.6	163.2	160.5	161.9	165
March, 1920	170.0	166.7	163.7	165.2	168
July, 1920	203.1	185.5	181.4	183.5	192
November, 1920	246.6	211.2	207.1	209.2	228
March, 1921	207.3	205.7	202.2	204.0	205
July, 1921	187.4	195.8	193.3	194.6	191
November, 1921	185.2	197.4	194.5	196.0	191
March, 1922	174.7	195.5	192.5	194.0	184
July, 1922	171.7	195.4	193.8	194.6	184
November, 1922	209.8	205.0	201.5	203.3	207
March, 1923	204.8	208.0	204.2	206.1	206
July, 1923	183.7	202.4	198.7	200.6	192
November, 1923	182.4	212.4	208.1	210.3	193
March, 1924	174.1	210.4	204.7	207.6	187
July, 1924	162.2	203.3	198.4	200.9	178
November, 1924	167.2	207.3	201.4	204.4	182
March, 1925	166.9	207.7	202.1	204.9	182
July, 1925	159.7	205.8	197.4	201.6	176
November, 1925	177.7	..	..	..	190[a]
December, 1925	179.7	..	..	..	188[a]
January, 1926	181.7	..	..	..	189[a]
February, 1926	184.6	..	..	..	195[a]
March, 1926	178.5	218.5	209.6	214.1	190
April, 1926	171.0	213.7	204.8	209.3	184
May, 1926	164.7	211.1	201.9	206.5	179
June, 1926	164.2	211.1	201.9	206.5	179
July, 1926	163.9	211.3	201.9	206.6	179
August, 1926	165.2	212.1	202.3	207.2	180
September, 1926	168.7	213.2	203.3	208.3	182
October, 1926	172.9	213.8	204.1	209.0	185
November, 1926	190.7	215.1	205.5	210.3	195
December, 1926	188.6	215.3	205.7	210.5	194
January, 1927	184.3	215.3	205.7	210.5	192
February, 1927	181.7	215.1	205.5	210.3	190
March, 1927	180.1	214.7	205.1	209.9	189
April, 1927	171.6	207.4	196.7	202.1	181
May, 1927	169.9	206.0	195.3	200.7	179
June, 1927	169.4	207.6	196.9	202.3	180
July, 1927	169.1	208.4	197.7	203.1	180
August, 1927	169.8	208.6	198.1	203.4	181
September, 1927	172.2	211.1	200.5	205.8	183
October, 1927	173.6	211.9	201.3	206.6	184
November, 1927	173.4	212.1	201.5	206.8	184
December, 1927	173.4	212.5	201.9	207.2	184

[a] Owing to the strike in the anthracite coal field, no figures were collected for anthracite and this figure includes an estimate of changes in the cost of fuel based on prices of substitutes.

November, 1920, bituminous coal prices, which ever since the beginning of the war had for the most part remained at a consistently higher level than the prices of anthracite the country over, reached a peak of 146.6% above prices in July, 1914;[1] stove anthracite was 111.2% higher and chestnut, 107.1%.

"These averages for the country as a whole were greatly exceeded in the eastern part of the country. When anthracite prices in this section went to 120% above the 1914 level in November, 1920, bituminous coal prices were 197% above. Again, in 1922, when anthracite prices started climbing, they went higher in the East than elsewhere; bituminous coal prices started upward at the same time and went farther. In each of these periods, frequently anthracite was not to be had in those parts of the country customarily burning this kind of coal for domestic fuel. The substitution of bituminous coal for domestic purposes at the same time that it was greatly in demand for industry sent its price upward higher than ever. The only part of the country where bituminous coal prices did not show an unusual increase was the Far West, where natural gas, oil and lignite are also used as domestic fuel. The increase in the South was more substantial; in the Middle West, where bituminous coal is extensively used for household purposes, the increase was great; but in no section of the country have bituminous coal prices remained at relatively so high a level as in the East, where the demands for industrial purposes and its substitution for anthracite have made for increases.

"After November, 1920, coal prices fell, bituminous prices with the season and also with the slump of industrial activity and the increasing supply of anthracite, reaching a low of 71.7% above July, 1914 in July, 1922; anthracite, less affected by industrial demands for fuel, showed a seasonal drop in March and July, 1921, but remained at practically the same level from July, 1921 to July, 1922. After that, anthracite prices rose slightly, and bituminous coal prices

[1] Prices in July of each year ordinarily are lower than the average for the year; this fact should be borne in mind in connection with any use made of July, 1914 as a base for measuring coal prices.

(*Text continued on page 120.*)

Table 16: Index Numbers of the Retail Price of Coal 1914 to Decem

Base, July,
(National Industrial

Locality	March, 1919			July, 1919			November, 1919		
	Anthracite		Bituminous Coal	Anthracite		Bituminous Coal	Anthracite		Bituminous Coal
	Stove	Chestnut		Stove	Chestnut		Stove	Chestnut	
United States	154.5	152.8	156.9	156.6	154.8	155.5	163.2	160.5	166.6
Eastern District	159.7	156.5	193.5	162.7	159.1	179.1	170.5	166.7	183.3
Albany, N. Y.	[b]	[b]	[b]	[b]	[b]	[b]	[b]	[b]	[b]
Baltimore, Md.	164.1	165.5	[b]	162.2	160.8	181 2	168.9	167.4	181.2
Boston, Mass.	148.3	143.5	193.5	161.3	156.1	191.5	171.5	166.0	202.0
Bridgeport, Conn.	203.3	199.2	212.5	189.8	186.0	200.6	198.6	193.5	200.5
Buffalo, N. Y.	155.2	151.1	248.9	160.5	157.3	219.0	163.3	160.0	257.1
Cambridge, Mass.	[b]	[b]	[b]	[b]	[b]	[b]	[b]	[b]	[b]
Fall River, Mass.	158.8	158.8	205.0	159.6	155.2	190.0	165.8	161.5	190.0
Lawrence, Mass.	[b]	[b]	[b]	[b]	[b]	[b]	[b]	[b]	[b]
Lowell, Mass.	[b]	[b]	[b]	[b]	[b]	[b]	[b]	[b]	[b]
Lynn, Mass.	[b]	[b]	[b]	[b]	[b]	[b]	[b]	[b]	[b]
Manchester, N. H.	150.5	149.0	187.3	154.5	153.0	157.7	157.7	156.0	157.7
Newark, N. J.	156.0	150.0	[b]	160.8	154.6	[b]	164.0	157.9	[b]
New Britain, Conn.	[b]	[b]	[b]	[b]	[b]	[b]	[b]	[b]	[b]
New Haven, Conn.	178.5	178.5	[b]	166.7	166.7	[b]	177.8	177.8	[b]
New York, N. Y.	152.1	148.1	167.6	159.3	155.5	167.6	161.4	157.2	167.5
Paterson, N. J.	[b]	[b]	[b]	[b]	[b]	[b]	[b]	[b]	[b]
Philadelphia, Pa.	153.9	149.9	[b]	158.0	153.9	136.4	172.5	166.5	144.5
Pittsburgh, Pa.	[b]	160.1	[b]	[b]	160.1	[b]	[b]	172.8	[b]
Portland, Me.		[b]	[b]	[b]	[b]	[b]	[b]	[b]	[b]
Providence, R. I.	169.5	165.3	212.3	169.4	164.9	192.3	176.2	171.5	202.0
Reading, Pa.	[b]	1	[b]	[b]	[b]	[b]	[b]	[b]	[b]
Rochester, N. Y.	146.3	143.8	195.2	155.9	152.3	182.3	158.8	155.5	182.3
Schenectady, N. Y.	[b]	[b]	[b]	[b]	[b]	[b]	[b]	[b]	[b]
Scranton, Pa.	159.6	154.3	140.9	181.2	173.3	[b]	180.7	174.0	140.8
Springfield, Mass.	[b]	[b]	[b]	[b]	[b]	[b]	[b]	[b]	[b]
Syracuse, N. Y.	[b]	[b]	[b]	[b]	[b]	[b]	[b]	[b]	[b]
Trenton, N. J.	[b]	[b]	[b]	[b]	[b]	[b]	[b]	[b]	[b]
Washington, D. C.	155.7	153.3	[b]	158.4	156.6	159.8	163.0	160.6	159.6
Wilmington, Del.	[b]	[b]	[b]	[b]	[b]	[b]	[b]	[b]	[b]
Middle Western District	152.1	149.5	161.8	153.3	151.1	156.1	158.7	157.6	172.8
Chicago, Ill.	150.6	147.2	130.0	154.4	150.9	130.0	157.0	153.4	140.0
Cincinnati, Ohio.	151.6	146.9	157.6	154.8	151.6	171.3	161.3	158.0	194.5
Cleveland, Ohio.	143.2	144.1	143.1	149.3	152.3	147.6	161.0	159.2	171.4
Columbus, Ohio.	148.4	148.4	162.1	143.8	148.4	162.1	150.0	155.0	179.5
Dayton, Ohio.	[b]	[b]	[b]	[b]	[b]	[b]	[b]	[b]	[b]
Detroit, Mich.	152.1	151.0	152.6	156.1	154.2	156.4	165.6	163.0	177.4
Duluth, Minn.	141.6	138.4	154.9	152.5	149.1	148.6	156.3	152.8	156.2
Grand Rapids, Mich.	[b]	[b]	[b]	[b]	[b]	[b]	[b]	[b]	[b]
Indianapolis, Ind.	151.7	151.3	148.6	155.3	151.5	153.9	162.5	168.8	177.8
Kansas City, Kan.	[b]	[b]	[b]	[b]	[b]	[b]	[b]	[b]	[b]
Kansas City, Mo.	[b]	[b]	172.6	146.7	146.7	168.6	153.1	153.1	[b]
Louisville, Ky.	144.9	144.9	176.9	147.8	147.8	165.5	155.0	155.0	178.5
Milwaukee, Wis.	154.6	152.4	141.4	157.2	154.9	144.0	160.0	157.5	164.0
Minneapolis, Minn.	156.4	153.2	163.9	153.3	150.3	155.6	155.6	152.4	175.6
Omaha, Neb.	[b]	[b]	167.9	153.0	150.5	[b]	157.2	154.5	[b]
St. Louis, Mo.	161.5	156.5	179.9	160.2	155.4	179.2	162.6	157.8	197.3
St. Paul, Minn.	153.9	147.4	163.9	150.8	147.9	153.0	153.0	150.0	150.8
Far Western District	139.8	146.5	136.4	132.3	141.9	134.1	145.1	141.5	143.9
Butte, Mont.	[b]	[b]	129.4	[b]	[b]	133.7	[b]	[b]	140.5
Denver, Col.	140.6	138.8	147.5	140.6	141.9	154.6	150.0	147.2	168.6
Los Angeles, Cal.	123.5	[b]	128.3	123.5	[b]	111.5	129.4	[b]	133.3
Portland, Ore.	[b]	[b]	123.7	[b]	[b]	121.1	[b]	[b]	146.1
Salt Lake City, Utah	152.4	152.4	138.5	[b]	[b]	130.4	153.4	150.0	143.5
San Francisco, Cal.	[b]	[b]	[b]	[b]	[b]	112.5	[b]	124.3	120.8
Seattle, Wash.	[b]	[b]	163.5	[b]	[b]	163.5	[b]	[b]	163.5
Southern District	155.2	154.0	152.4	154.3	153.0	157.0	165.1	161.3	180.1
Atlanta, Ga.	[b]	[b]	155.0	153.0	156.8	170.0	[b]	159.4	190.0
Birmingham, Ala.	[b]	[b]	191.6	[b]	[b]	175.0	[b]	[b]	208.8
Charleston, S. C.	169.7	169.7	125.9	164.0	163.6	125.9	164.0	163.6	[b]
Dallas, Tex.	[b]	[b]	[b]	[b]	[b]	157.1	[b]	[b]	200.0
Jacksonville, Fla.	150.0	150.0	133.3	[b]	[b]	[b]	[b]	[b]	[b]
Little Rock, Ark.	146.6	140.0	166.4	150.6	140.0	166.7	162.9	152.5	211.5
Macon, Ga.	[b]	[b]	[b]	[b]	[b]	[b]	[b]	[b]	[b]
Memphis, Tenn.	[b]	[b]	[b]	[b]	[b]	[b]	[b]	[b]	[b]
New Orleans, La.	160.0	156.1	133.3	[b]	[b]	133.3	170.0	170.0	126.2
Richmond, Va.	153.3	153.3	176.5	[b]	[b]	[b]	[b]	[b]	[b]

[a] The report for June, 1918 represented the increase over June 1, 1914, for stove and chestnut anthracite and two kinds of bituminous coal; that for November, 1918, the increase over November 1, 1914. These have not been reproduced here. Owing to the anthracite strike, indexes for stove and chestnut were not computed for November or December, 1925.

IN TON LOTS FOR DOMESTIC USE, IN SPECIFIED CITIES, JULY, BER, 1927[a]

1914=100

Conference Board)

March, 1920			July, 1920			November, 1920			March, 1921		
Anthracite		Bituminous Coal	Anthracite		Bituminous Coal	Anthracite		Bituminous Coal	Anthracite		Bituminous Coal
Stove	Chestnut		Stove	Chestnut		Stove	Chestnut		Stove	Chestnut	
166.7	163.7	170.0	185.5	181.4	203.1	211.2	207.1	246.6	205.7	202.2	207.3
176.4	173.4	197.4	194.1	190.4	248.7	220.7	216.5	297.1	214.6	209.6	239.9[e]
[b]	[b]	[d]	[d]	[b]	[b]	[b]	[b]	[b]	191.8	191.8	[b]
168.9	167.4	181.2	182.6	181.8	225.0	217 9	214.3	300.0	207.1	203.9	215.4
181.5	175.6	218.1	195.0	188.6	284.9	215.1	208.1	297.9	215.1	208.5	247.3
212.0	208.0	200.0	244.9	240.0	237.5	287.8	280.3	268.3	259.5	252.6	[b]
163.3	160.0	272.5	182.0	177.3	260.0	197.3	192.5	283.3	198.0	192.2	[b]
[b]	[b]	[b]	[b]	[b]	[b]	237.0	237.0	352.9	237.0	237.0	282.4
170.5	169.3	206.8	187.1	183.9	245.0	209.3	205.3	277.5	207.5	204.3	263.3
[b]	[b]	[b]	[b]	[b]	[b]	225.0	218.2	340.0	218.8	212.1	280.0
[b]	[b]	[b]	[b]	[b]	[b]	225.8	225.8	[b]	222.2	222.2	[b]
[b]	[b]	[b]	[b]	[b]	[b]	[b]	[b]	[b]	[b]	[b]	[b]
163.6	161.8	157.7	181.9	180.8	211.9	218.2	216.0	252.4	212.0	210.4	212.9
169.6	163.2	[b]	188.0	180.8	[b]	208.0	200.0	200.0	208.0	201.9	[b]
[b]	[b]	[b]	[b]	[b]	[b]	[b]	[b]	[b]	[b]	[b]	[b]
181.4	181.4	[b]	211.1	211.1	[b]	263.0	263.0	[b]	233.3	233.3	[b]
165.5	161.1	[b]	184.2	177.8	[b]	205.2	197.9	274.1	202.7	195.5	222.9
[b]	[b]	[b]	[b]	[b]	[b]	213.1	204.7	368.8	213.1	204.7	225.0
177.9	171.6	144.5	196.6	191.2	[b]	218.4	213.8	[b]	214.8	210.2	200.0
[b]	172.8	200.0	[b]	191.1	209.5	[b]	234.2	[b]	[b]	185.6	[b,e]
[b]	[b]	[b]	[b]	[b]	[b]	235.3	232.8	333.3	222.2	219.8	244.4
190.4	185.5	223.0	205.1	201.0	286.7	239.0	233.1	317.3	226.1	221.1	253.
[b]	[b]	[b]	[b]	[b]	[b]	[b]	[b]	[b]	[b]	[b]	[b]
153.7	157.2	200.0	179.7	174.7	250.0	197.1	192.2	387.1	197.4	192.9	246.9
[b]	[b]	[b]	[b]	[b]	[b]	216.2	208.1	320.0	205.9	202.2	195.0
189.5	180.2	[b]	[b]	[b]	[b]	[b]	[b]	[b]	[b]	[b]	[b]
[b]	[b]	[b]	[b]	[b]	[b]	214.6	211.2	288.9	204.9	201.6	222.0
[b]	[b]	[b]	[b]	[b]	[b]	185.5	185.5	[b]	[b]	[b]	[b]
[b]	[b]	[b]	[b]	[b]	[b]	211.9	208.0	[b]	228.3	219.7	[b]
167.1	165.8	167.0	182.6	181.6	201.0	207.1	202.0	255.1	199.7	196.4	238 6
[b]	[b]	[b]	[b]	[b]	[b]	211.1	206.8	[b]	210.5	206.3	[b]
160.0	158.4	173.3	185.2	180.9	219.2	208.7	204.2	263.0	200.6	198.2	209.3
163.2	159.5	150.0	182.2	177.9	175.0	216.5	211.0	200.0	189.9	189.0	169.2
161.3	156.3	200.0	192.1	175.0	249.3	206.5	200.0	257.1	206.5	200.0	232.1
164.9	163.8	165.9	179.4	175.2	224.8	214.3	201.1	256.9	198.0	194.1	213.8
156.3	159.3	162.5	183.1	183.1	193.8	208.4	208.4	269.9	196.9	196.9	225.0
[b]	[b]	[b]	[b]	[b]	[b]	[b]	[b]	[b]	[b]	206.1	211.1
165.6	163.0	173.1	188.2	182.7	234.5	216.1	211.6	280.0	199.2	196.9	203.8
156.3	152.8	160.9	184.2	179.8	214.3	201.3	196.3	270.5	201.3	196.3	195.2
[b]	[b]	[b]	[b]	[b]	[b]	202.4	196.5	239.4	190.5	185.0	201.4
164.9	167.0	176.7	189.1	190.4	205.3	200.0	193.8	226.2	207.7	263.2	224.1
[d]	[b]	[b]	[b]	[b]	[b]	202.3	212.2	220.5	170.9	195.1	176.9
157.8	157.8	200.0	[b]	[b]	217.3	213.3	222.2	262.8	[b]	200.0	234.3
157.1	157.1	170.0	[b]	[b]	238.4	[b]	[b]	302.0	[b]	[b]	227.6
159.4	155.8	150.9	190.0	185.6	211.4	207.9	202.5	254.4	207.6	202.2	200.7
155.6	152.4	176.9	183.9	178.9	212.4	203.9	198.9	293.0	201.7	197.3	215.6
157.2	154.5	[b]	186.5	183.6	[b]	222.3	218.2	[b]	204.7	200.0	[b]
159.7	156.2	192.5	171.9	170.8	237.3	213.4	206.6	269.8	211.7	210.5	234.9
153.0	150.0	170.0	180.3	175.5	212.8	204.1	198.7	294.0	198.5	194.1	212.6
146.9	139.6	143.0	154.4	146.9	154.9	163.5	164.6[e]	175.6	170.1	171.4	176.7
[b]	[b]	141.0	[b]	[b]	147.4	[b]	[b]	177.4	[b]	[b]	176.0
150.0	147.2	166.1	163.9	153.1	172.9	195.6	220.0[e]	216.1	195.6	220.0	210.8
126.4	[b]	133.3	142.9	138.9	141.7	151.4	138.9	158.3	157.1	144.4	158.3
[b]	[b]	148.7	[b]	[b]	153.8	[b]	[b]	176.9	[b]	[b]	176.9
158.1	152.1	145.8	165.1	161.4	165.2	169.8	154.5	176.3	169.8	172.7	177.6
[b]	[b]	125.0	[b]	131.4	137.5	[b]	152.9	158.3	[b]	152.9	158.2
[b]	[b]	148.2	[b]	[b]	170.2	[b]	[b]	207.3	[b]	[b]	207.3
170.3	161.3	178.6	194.3	188.7	233.3	214.4	207.9	252.9	210 6	205.6	228.8
[b]	[b]	195.0	[b]	[b]	260.0	[b]	[b]	315.0	[b]	[b]	195.0
[b]	[b]	230.5	[b]	[b]	314.3	[b]	[b]	326.9	[b]	[b]	309.3
163.9	145.5	[b]	199.4	197.6	[b]	230.3	225.5	196.3	230.3	225.5	196.3
[b]	[b]	207.1	[b]	[b]	200.0	[b]	[b]	221.4	[b]	[b]	221.4
188.9	188.9	184.6	200.0	200.0	215.4	[b]	[b]	[b]	[b]	[b]	213.3
164.7	142.1	215.0	[b]	[b]	265.0	[b]	[b]	310.0	[b]	[b]	290.0
[b]	[b]	[b]	[b]	[b]	[b]	[b]	[b]	[b]	[b]	[b]	[b]
164.1	160.0	168.5	184.6	180.0	207.9	180.0	180.0	252.8	180.0	180.0	224.7
170.0	165.5	138.2	[b]	[b]	[b]	225.0	214.3	212.4	225.0	214.3	182.5
[b]	[b]	[b]	[b]	[b]	[b]	[b]	[b]	[b]	[b]	[b]	[b]

[b] No report.

[e] Corrected figure.

Table 16: Index Numbers of the Retail Price of Coal 1914 to December,

Base, July,

(National Industrial

Locality	July, 1921			November, 1921			March, 1922		
	Anthracite		Bituminous Coal	Anthracite		Bituminous Coal	Anthracite		Bituminous Coal
	Stove	Chestnut		Stove	Chestnut		Stove	Chestnut	
United States	195.8	193.3	187.4	197.4	194.5	185.2	195.5	192.5	174.7
Eastern District	202.2	196.9	202.0	204.4	199.7	191.0	201.6	197.5	179.1
Albany, N. Y.	180.8	180.8	b	188.2	188.2	b	186.8	186.8	b
Baltimore, Md.	194.9	191.9	179.4	202.7	196.3	174.4	202.7	196.3	174.4
Boston, Mass.	201.7	195.1	207.4	208.4	201.6	202.1	201.7	195.1	175.5
Bridgeport, Conn.	235.1	226.3	b	235.1	226.3	b	210.8	205.3	b
Buffalo, N. Y.	194.3	188.6	233.3	195.8	190.0	233.3	193.6	186.8	216.7
Cambridge, Mass.	222.2	222.2	229.4	217.5	221.4	229.4	210.5	214.3	194.1
Fall River, Mass.	198.7	192.5	223.3	195.9	190.4	202.5	196.8	191.5	180.0
Lawrence, Mass.	206.3	200.0	240.0	206.3	200.0	215.0	206.3	200.0	210.0
Lowell, Mass.	212.9	212.9	b	206.3	206.3	b	209.5	209.5	b
Lynn, Mass.	200.0	193.8	200.0	200.0	193.8	200.0	b	b	b
Manchester, N. H.	200.0	198.5	181.4	200.0	198.5	177.4	194.0	192.5	165.6
Newark, N. J.	202.6	196.7	b	203.7	198.4	b	204.0	198.4	b
New Britain, Conn.	b	b	b	b	b	b	196.1	196.1	b
New Haven, Conn.	203.7	203.7	b	207.4	207.4	b	207.4	207.4	b
New York, N. Y.	195.1	189.1	216.9	196.6	189.6	204.8	193.1	186.3	192.8
Paterson, N. J.	208.2	200.0	187.5	213.1	204.7	187.5	207.2	203.1	187.5
Philadelphia, Pa.	207.4	202.3	200.0	210.2	206.8	200.0	206.6	203.2	173.7
Pittsburgh, Pa.	b	159.8	155.6	b	b	144.4	b	b	144.4
Portland, Me.	205.9	203.7	211.1	215.8	213.4	188.9	215.8	213.4	188.9
Providence, R. I.	209.5	205.3	195.1	209.5	205.3	175.3	210.0	210.2	166.3
Reading, Pa.	b	b	b	b	b	b	203.0	197.1	222.2
Rochester, N. Y.	196.3	190.0	241.9	199.3	192.7	233.9	197.8	191.2	225.8
Schenectady, N. Y.	197.4	195.3	180.0	202.2	200.0	180.0	210.8	203.0	160.0
Scranton, Pa.	b	b	b	b	b	b	b	b	b
Springfield, Mass.	191.9	188.8	188.9	195.1	192.0	188.9	195.1	192.0	188.9
Syracuse, N. Y.	177.9	171.7	b	188.8	182.0	b	187.3	180.6	b
Trenton, N. J.	197.8	194.2	b	211.8	203.8	b	199.3	195.6	b
Washington, D. C.	197.3	195.9	206.7	202.7	195.4	180.4	197.2	198.0	170.4
Wilmington, Del.	201.1	194.2	b	204.8	197.1	b	198.4	192.6	200.0
Middle Western District	195.9	193.9	191.9	197.9	195.4	191.6	196.4	192.9	178.0
Chicago, Ill.	189.9	187.1	155.9	199.4	192.3	166.3	198.1	192.0	168.1
Cincinnati, Ohio	206.4	196.9	203.6	206.4	200.0	203.6	193.5	187.5	187.5
Cleveland, Ohio	190.4	187.5	200.9	192.7	189.1	193.6	192.7	189.1	178.3
Columbus, Ohio	212.9	212.9	198.9	200.0	201.6	197.7	213.3	201.6	187.4
Dayton, Ohio	b	200.0	188.9	b	200.0	194.1	b	187.9	155.6
Detroit, Mich.	189.2	185.3	187.9	189.3	184.2	184.4	187.1	183.2	175.9
Duluth, Minn.	193.7	187.7	181.0	196.2	190.2	181.0	193.7	187.7	161.9
Grand Rapids, Mich.	185.1	182.1	196.8	187.5	182.1	183.3	187.5	182.1	174.2
Indianapolis, Ind.	197.8	195.2	177.5	203.3	200.0	182.1	203.3	199.2	144.9
Kansas City, Kan.	164.0	197.6	189.7	164.0	197.6	194.9	174.4	195.1	184.6
Kansas City, Mo.	221.1	205.9	214.1	226.3	207.1	200.0	b	195.6	188.4
Louisville, Ky.	195.7	195.7	201.6	195.7	195.7	199.3	194.2	194.2	171.7
Milwaukee, Wis.	204.2	198.4	187.4	207.3	201.5	191.3	204.2	198.0	185.5
Minneapolis, Minn.	196.1	190.8	200.4	199.4	194.1	206.1	197.2	191.9	206.1
Omaha, Neb.	204.7	200.0	b	204.7	200.0	b	204.7	200.0	b
St. Louis, Mo.	190.3	190.4	217.8	198.1	197.1	230.1	198.1	197.1	221.9
St. Paul, Minn.	192.9	187.8	192.9	196.2	191.0	196.6	194.0	188.8	187.0
Far Western District	165.6	176.3	166.0	167.1	171.8	164.4	167.1	171.8	163.7
Butte, Mont.	b	b	168.0	b	b	162.3	b	b	158.3
Denver, Col.	177.8	228.6	172.4	177.8	200.0	191.5	177.8	200.0	173.1
Los Angeles, Cal.	160.0	b	150.0	160.0	155.6	158.3	160.0	155.6	158.3
Portland, Ore.	b	b	166.7	b	b	164.1	b	b	164.1
Salt Lake City, Utah	169.8	181.8	171.6	169.8	181.8	158.1	169.8	181.8	162.2
San Francisco, Cal.	b	148.6	150.0	b	150.0	158.3	b	150.0	158.3
Seattle, Wash.	b	b	204.4	b	b	191.8	b	b	184.9
Southern District	179.4	178.1	193.1	183.4	180.8	199.3	180.1	178.1	179.8
Atlanta, Ga.	b	189.2	190.0	183.8	189.2	190.0	183.8	189.2	160.0
Birmingham, Ala.	b	b	242.8	b	b	245.5	b	b	186.2
Charleston, S. C.	212.1	207.3	177.8	212.1	207.3	177.8	212.1	207.3	166.7
Dallas, Tex.	b	b	207.2	b	b	217.9	b	b	217.9
Jacksonville, Fla.	171.1	171.1	166.7	184.2	184.2	173.3	184.2	184.2	173.3
Little Rock, Ark.	167.6	163.2	240.0	181.8	173.7	290.0	170.5	163.2	260.0
Macon, Ga.	b	b	b	b	b	b	b	b	b
Memphis, Tenn.	180.0	180.0	181.6	180.0	180.0	181.6	180.0	180.0	170.4
New Orleans, La.	170.0	161.9	149.9	175.0	169.0	169.6	167.5	165.9	148.5
Richmond, Va.	b	b	b	b	b	b	b	b	b

[a] The report for June, 1918 represented the increase over June 1, 1914, for stove and chestnut anthracite and two kinds of bituminous coal; that for November, 1918, the increase over November 1, 1914. These have not been reproduced here. Owing to the anthracite strike, indexes for stove and chestnut were not computed for November or December, 1925.

IN TON LOTS FOR DOMESTIC USE, IN SPECIFIED CITIES, JULY, 1927[a]—(*Continued*)

1914 = 100

Conference Board)

July, 1922			November, 1922			March, 1923			July, 1923		
Anthracite		Bituminous Coal	Anthracite		Bituminous Coal	Anthracite		Bituminous Coal	Anthracite		Bituminous Coal
Stove	Chestnut		Stove	Chestnut		Stove	Chestnut		Stove	Chestnut	
195.4	193.8	171.7	205.0	201.5	209.8	208.0	204.2	204.8	202.4	198.7	183.7
202.4	198.1	186.4	211.0	206.0	230.5	216.4	212.0	228.9	208.0	203.1	199.9
186.8	186.8	b	186.8	186.8	b	187.0	187.0	b	188.5	188.5	b
b	b	b	211.6	208.3	241.0	218.3	214.9	230.8	211.3	208.3	179.4
201.7	195.1	175.6	215.1	208.1	255.3	215.1	208.1	255.3	201.7	195.1	191.4
227.0	221.1	b	258.1	251.3	b	267.6	260.5	b	256.0	246.2	b
b	b	b	198.5	192.7	225.0	198.5	192.7	233.3	197.3	191.5	233.3
222.2	222.2	194.1	224.6[c]	228.6[c]	b	224.6	228.6	294.1	210.5	214.3	211.8
196.8	191.4	180.0	203.2	197.9	213.3	210.8	202.9	223.3	202.2	198.3	233.3
206.3	200.0	210.0	206.3	200.0	280.0	b	b	b	212.5	206.1	240.0
212.9	212.9	b	212.9	212.9	b	225.8	b	b	232.3	219.4	b
b	b	b	206.4	200.0	240.5	206.4	200.0	240.0	200.0	193.8	190.0
191.2	192.1	207.5	218.2	216.0	220.8	218.0	216.4	220.8	206.0	204.4	181.4
204.0	198.1	b	204.8	198.4	b	211.0	204.9	b	203.0	197.1	b
b	196.1	b	b	b	b	261.4	261.4	208.7	222.2	209.2	147.8
207.4	207.4	b	227.8	227.8	b	227.8	227.8	b	220.1	220.1	b
196.1	186.9	230.8	203.2	195.9	250.0	204.4	197.1	237.2	202.0	194.7	224.4
207.2	203.1	212.5	214.9	210.6	237.5	214.9	210.6	212.5	214.9	210.6	212.5
207.5	203.1	189.4	212.2	208.8	181.6	221.2	217.6	198.9	223.0	214.0	189.4
b	b	144.4	b	175.3	177.8	b	b	177.8	b	b	b
215.8	213.4	188.9	213.7	210.3	233.3	215.8	213.4	238.9	213.7	210.3	222.2
208.4	203.3	174.4	220.4	215.6	235.7	221.6	216.7	240.8	212.5	207.8	214.3
203.0	197.1	236.1	223.9	219.0	277.8	238.8	233.6	277.8	209.0	204.4	194.4
197.8	191.4	b	197.8	191.2	233.9	197.8	191.2	241.9	197.8	191.2	204.8
197.1	194.9	160.0	210.0	202.2	210.0	201.1	197.4	200.0	196.3	192.8	160.0
b	b	b	b	b	b	b	b	b	b	b	b
196.7	190.4	188.9	204.9	201.6	277.8	214.6	211.2	244.4	211.0	206.4	185.7
184.6	180.1	b	183.2	176.8	b	187.3	183.9	b	184.6	180.1	b
198.5	194.9	b	208.2	204.4	b	223.0	219.0	b	208.2	204.4	b
199.3	199.3	185.4	211.4	212.9	229.7	219.6	221.1	203.9	209.4	207.4	192.7[c]
197.8	192.4	194.4	206.8	201.7	216.7	213.3	207.1	216.7	211.1	204.9	205.6
197.3	192.9	182.4	199.4	195.2	227.6	202.7	196.7	223.4	198.7	195.6	197.6
198.5	192.4	174.8	213.1	202.4	199.2	213.1	202.4	196.6	210.1	200.0	186.6
206.4	200.0	201.8	b	200.0	271.4	b	b	257.1	b	200.0	228.6
189.5	183.5	183.7	192.7	186.8	239.0	210.0	203.7	245.9	196.0	193.4	222.0
200.0	200.0	186.2	b	217.7	255.0	b	212.5	250.6	b	211.3	213.8
b	b	183.3	b	b	238.9	b	200.0	233.3	b	200.0	207.4
193.4	185.3	186.2	204.3	200.0	244.8	206.4	202.1	237.9	206.4	202.1	224.1
193.7	187.7	171.4	193.7	187.7	228.6	193.7	187.7	228.6	193.7	187.7	166.7
185.2	180.0	185.5	193.4	187.9	212.7	202.4	196.5	222.9	198.8	193.0	185.0
205.4	193.8	151.3	196.9	193.8	199.3	208.3	193.8	178.2	200.0	201.6	160.8
174.4	195.1	169.2	174.4	178.0	200.0	167.4	175.6	184.6	167.4	168.3	179.4
b	b	188.6	b	186.7	211.4	b	186.7	185.7	b	186.7	185.7
205.9	205.9	188.7	b	d	260.2	b	b	252.6	b	211.4	209.1
205.2	198.8	180.4	207.4	200.3	225.7	207.4	200.3	234.8	202.8	196.8	189.6
194.4	189.2	206.1	194.4	188.4	235.0	194.4	188.4	228.6	194.4	187.6	215.1
b	b	b	b	b	b	b	190.9	b	b	181.8	b
199.4	197.1	210.8	198.1	196.1	243.4	204.4	200.2	241.8	200.2	199.2	206.9
191.3	186.2	195.5	198.5	192.7	217.9	196.7	190.7	210.4	191.3	184.6	185.9
157.7	169.2	147.4	168.9	190.4	156.1	165.6	164.2	152.5	163.0	150.0	149.4
b	b	154.9	b	b	155.4	b	b	146.1	b	b	149.7
172.2	196.0	168.4	b	b	200.0	194.4	190.9	194.1	183.3	181.8	189.5
142.9	b	116.7	160.0	b	137.5	160.0	b	137.5	154.3	b	129.2
b	b	153.8	b	b	153.8	b	b	153.8	b	b	143.6
169.8	181.8	157.6	200.0	190.4	167.8	162.8	190.4	155.8	175.0	b	156.0
b	134.3	137.5	b	b	b	b	140.0	145.8	b	140.0	145.8
b	b	172.0	b	b	176.8	b	b	168.3	b	b	170.0
185.6	184.4	171.7	205.7	192.1	205.7	196.4	191.7	196.5	201.9	192.9	176.4
b	b	170.0	200.0	b	230.0	200.0	b	230.0	200.0	200.0	180.0
b	b	165.5	b	b	227.6	b	b	206.7	b	b	208.6
212.1	207.3	166.7	212.1	207.2	177.8	212.1	207.3	177.8	212.1	207.3	177.8
b	b	200.0	b	b	217.9	b	b	217.9	b	b	b
184.2	184.2	173.3	b	b	200.0	b	b	200.0	194.7	194.7	186.7
b	b	b	b	187.5	233.3	b	187.5	183.3	b	200.0	183.3
b	b	b	b	b	b	b	b	b	b	b	b
b	b	b	b	180.0	194.4	180.0	180.0	198.3	b	180.0	157.8
165.0	166.7	152.0	b	195.2	166.7	b	204.8	166.7	b	b	143.1
	b	b	b	b	b	b	b	b	b	b	b

[b] No report.

[c] Corrected figure.

Table 16: Index Numbers of the Retail Price of Coal 1914 to December,

Base, July,

(National Industrial

Locality	November, 1923			March, 1924			July, 1924		
	Anthracite		Bituminous Coal	Anthracite		Bituminous Coal	Anthracite		Bituminous Coal
	Stove	Chestnut		Stove	Chestnut		Stove	Chestnut	
United States	212.4	208.1	182.4	210.4	204.7	174.1	203.3	198.4	162.2
Eastern District	219.9	215.1	190.2	217.5	211.0	178.6	210.5	203.9	167.1
Albany, N. Y.	198.3	198.3	b	196.6	196.6	b	197.3	197.3	b
Baltimore, Md.	223.8	218.2	174.4	224.9	219.3	171.8	211.6	203.9	161.5
Boston, Mass.	215.1	208.1	170.2	208.4	201.6	159.6	210.1	203.3	159.6
Bridgeport, Conn.	264.0	253.8	b	264.0	253.8	b	248.0	238.4	b
Buffalo, N. Y.	206.3	200.2	191.7	204.9	199.6	191.7	202.0	195.4	191.7
Cambridge, Mass.	224.6	228.6	188.2	217.5	221.4	b	217.5	221.4	176.4
Fall River, Mass.	214.8	210.8	210.0	205.0	200.8	196.7	196.7	193.6	175.0
Lawrence, Mass.	218.8	212.1	200.0	206.3	200.0	190.0	206.3	200.0	190.0
Lowell, Mass.	238.7	229.0	b	b	b	b	212.9	212.9	b
Lynn, Mass.	206.4	200.0	170.0	206.4	200.0	170.0	193.5	187.5	150.0
Manchester, N. H.	211.8	205.9	212.4	213.9	202.0	212.4	209.0	200.0	183.4
Newark, N. J.	217.2	210.9	b	215.4	208.7	b	210.4	204.0	b
New Britain, Conn.	b	b	b	228.8	228.8	147.8	205.9	199.3	130.4
New Haven, Conn.	233.3	233.3	b	235.1	235.1	b	214.8	214.8	b
New York, N. Y.	213.2	205.5	211.5	213.2	205.5	198.7	206.4	199.0	198.7
Paterson, N. J.	228.9	232.3	175.0	218.1	213.8	175.0	208.8	204.7	168.8
Philadelphia, Pa.	235.4	228.0	163.6	226.7	223.0	189.4	222.9	213.9	173.7
Pittsburgh, Pa.	b	b	b	b	170.1	144.4	b	159.8	144.4
Portland, Me.	225.5	223.1	200.0	225.5	219.8	183.3	222.2	216.6	165.0
Providence, R. I.	231.3	226.7	201.0	229.3	224.2	180.6	217.7	213.3	170 4
Reading, Pa.	223.9	219.0	236.1	223.9	219.0	222.2	212.7	208.0	208.3
Rochester, N. Y.	206.9	200.4	196.8	206.9	200.4	196.8	207.0	197.9	196.8
Schenectady, N. Y.	206.6	202.9	150.0	206.6	202.9	150.0	203.7	200.0	130.0
Scranton, Pa.	b	b	b	b	b	b	b	b	b
Springfield, Mass.	215.9	211.2	181.0	211.4	206.9	161.9	203.1	198.7	147.6
Syracuse, N. Y.	194.9	190.2	b	194.9	190.2	b	191.9	187.3	b
Trenton, N. J.	223.0	219.0	b	220.4	212.1	b	220.4	209.8	b
Washington, D. C.	222.3	220.7	162.0	222.3	220.7	167.6	209.4	207.4	164.8
Wilmington, Del.	228.3	221.7	194.4	229.8	221.4	183.3	214.8	206.4	172.2
Middle Western District	205.4	203.3	191.0	202.9	202.4	183.2	197.4	196.5	167.2
Chicago, Ill.	218.6	211.0	178.2	212.0	205.5	156.6	208.2	201.8	158.7
Cincinnati, Ohio	b	206.3	228.6	212.9	206.3	207.1	212.9	206.3	185.7
Cleveland, Ohio	206.0	203.3	215.6	206.0	202.2	196.3	189.4	186.9	184.9
Columbus, Ohio	b	240.0	206.9	b	227.4	198.3	b	221.0	178.4
Dayton, Ohio	b	206.1	192.6	b	200.0	177.8	b	187.9	162.5
Detroit, Mich.	212.9	208.4	200.0	202.2	195.8	189.7	193.5	187.5	180.6
Duluth, Minn.	202.5	196.3	161.9	202.5	196.3	161.9	200.0	193.9	161.9
Grand Rapids, Mich.	202.4	196.5	188.9	196.4	190.8	168.6	184.5	179.2	156.1
Indianapolis, Ind.	206.3	212.7	147.5	b	220.5	153.8	203.2	205.6	135.9
Kansas City, Kan.	155.8	163.4	169.2	155.8	192.7	169.2	137.2	178.0	164.1
Kansas City, Mo.	b	195.6	177.1	b	195.6	182.9	b	186.7	182.9
Louisville, Ky.	b	b	219.9	b	b	219.9	217.6	214.4	182.6
Milwaukee, Wis.	212.7	204.3	191.0	212.7	204.9	177.8	210.1	201.8	153.1
Minneapolis, Minn.	201.7	195.4	205.4	201.7	195.4	184.7	198.9	191.9	184.4
Omaha, Neb.	b	195.4	b	b	190.9	b	b	181.8	b
St. Louis, Mo.	210.7	209.4	213.7	210.7	209.4	221.2	198.1	197.1	191.8
St. Paul, Minn.	199.2	192.3	180.6	199.3	192.4	176.3	195.6	188.8	169.7
Far Western District	164.5	144.2	155.9	165.8	146.4	150.0	164.4	145.8	145.0
Butte, Mont.	b	b	153.9	b	b	149.0	b	b	145.1
Denver, Col.	177.8	150.0	200.0	166.7	146.0	155.8	169.4	154.0	167.0
Los Angeles, Cal.	158.8	b	119.2	b	b	b	152.9	b	109.6
Portland, Ore.	b	b	153.8	b	b	164.1	b	b	148.7
Salt Lake City, Utah	152.2	b	155.3	165.1	156.5	132.6	175.0	b	149.3
San Francisco, Cal.	b	140.0	145.8	b	140.0	150.0	b	140.0	129.2
Seattle, Wash.	b	b	173.7	b	b	171.2	b	b	172.4
Southern District	211.1	204.2	181.1	210.2	205.9	174.3	195.7	191.9	164.8
Atlanta, Ga.	212.6	218.1	179.4	214.1	218.1	179.4	194.6	197.3	156.4
Birmingham, Ala.	b	b	237.9	b	b	216.7	b	b	210.3
Charleston, S. C.	b	b	b	212.1	207.3	177.8	212.1	207.3	163.0
Dallas, Tex.	b	b	b	b	b	b	b	b	200.0
Jacksonville, Fla.	194.7	b	160.0	184.2	184.2	120.0	184.2	184.2	106.7
Little Rock, Ark.	b	212.5	200.0	b	212.5	200.0	b	b	b
Macon, Ga.	b	b	180.0	b	b	180.0	b	b	170.0
Memphis, Tenn.	b	185.0	157.8	b	190.0	161.1	b	190.0	161.1
New Orleans, La.	217.5	207.1	170.3	220.0	209.5	178.2	195.0	185.7	160.6
Richmond, Va.	b	b	b	b	b		b	b	b

[a] The report for June, 1919 represented the increase over June 1, 1914, for stove and chestnut anthracite and two kinds of bituminous coal; that for November, 1918, the increase over November 1, 1914. These have not been reproduced here. Owing to the anthracite strike, indexes for stove and chestnut were not computed for November or December, 1925.

IN TON LOTS FOR DOMESTIC USE, IN SPECIFIED CITIES, JULY, 1927[a]—(*Continued*)

1914 = 100

Conference Board)

November, 1924			March, 1925			July, 1925			November, 1925[d]	December, 1925[d]
Anthracite		Bituminous Coal	Anthracite		Bituminous Coal	Anthracite		Bituminous Coal	Bituminous Coal	Bituminous Coal
Stove	Chestnut		Stove	Chestnut		Stove	Chestnut			
207.3	201.4	167.2	207.7	202.1	166.9	205.8	197.4	159.7	177.7	179.7
215.2	208.2	170.8	216.0	208.8	170.0	213.2	203.0	166.7	193.9	197.0
200.0	200.0	[b]	203.4	200.0	[b]	204.2	193.7	[b]	[b]	[b]
219.6	209.3	200.0	218.3	208.3	164.1	214.8	205.0	130.4	139	139
215.1	208.1	159.6	215.7	208.7	159.6	215 7	205.4	159.6	199	181
248.0	238.4	[b]	244.0	234.6	[b]	240.0	230.8	[b]	[b]	[b]
205.0	197.6	191.7	206.3	198.3	191.7	205.5	193.9	166.7	186	188
224.6	228.6	176.4	224.6	228.6	194.1	224.6	225.0	188.2	228	228
202.9	199.8	181.7	204.3	202.8	190.0	211.8	205.0	181.7	196	196
206.3	200.0	180.0	215.6	209.1	180.0	206.3	197.0	180.0	205	210
[b]	[b]	[b]	222.6	219.4	[b]	[b]	[b]	[b]	[b]	[b]
206.4	200.0	150.0	206.4	200.0	150.0	[b]	[b]	[b]	[b]	[b]
210.9	202.0	193.1	204.0	198.0	193.1	202.0	196.0	193.1	228	257
213.7	206.5	[b]	216.6	207.5	[b]	213.9	200.0	[b]	[b]	[b]
215.7	215.7	134.8	215.7	215.7	130.4	209.2	202.6	126.1	165	165
225.9	225.9	[b]	223.9	223.9	[b]	218.5	218.5	[b]	[b]	[b]
210.7	201.9	198.7	213.2	205.5	198.7	218.3	202.9	198.7	224	241
216.9	210.6	187.5	214.9	210.6	181.3	216.9	204.7	181.3	[b]	[b]
224.9	216.7	173.7	224.9	219.4	173.7	215.7	205.0	168.4	179	179
[b]	159.8	133.3	[b]	159.8	133.3	[b]	154.6	144.4	138	138
225.5	223.1	166.9	222.4	220.0	166.7	222.2	219.8	175 0	183	197
226.1	220.0	174.4	225.6	220.0	175.5	221.1	213.3	167.9	212	209
220.1	215.3	208.3	220.1	215.3	208.3	209.7	200.7	194.4	201	201
207 1	201.2	188.7	207.1	201.2	188.7	209.9	197.9	169.4	178	178
206.6	202.9	150.0	210.3	202.9	150.0	207.3	196.4	150.0	230	230
[b]	[b]	[b]	[b]	[b]	[b]	[b]	[b]	[b]	[b]	[b]
210.8	205.6	147.6	214.1	208.9	147.6	210.2	199.1	141.7	167	172
194.9	190.2	[b]	197.1	186.6	[b]	200.0	188.0	[b]	[b]	[b]
224.4	212.1	[b]	228.3	219.7	[b]	220.4	208.3	[b]	[b]	[b]
214.5	210.9	164.8	211.4	203.9	154.6	207.8	202.4	159.2	177	180
218.6	209.3	172.2	218.6	209.3	172.2	109.6	196.9	163.9	171	175
201.3	199.3	173.7	202.5	199.6	173.1	201.4	195.9	163.2	168.5	170.4
211.4	201.8	161.3	211.1	204.7	156.3	207.4	198.8	156.8	163	173
206.4	203.1	185.7	206.4	200.0	176.4	206.4	196.9	171.4	198	198
196.0	193.4	190.4	199.3	196.7	190.8	192.7	190.2	179.4	194	193
[b]	221.0	181.9	[b]	221.0	184.4	[b]	216.1	172.4	205	205
[b]	193.9	154.2	[b]	193.9	166.7	[b]	193.9	156.7	193	193
197.8	191.6	170.7	197.8	191.6	170.7	193.8	181.8	178.9	200	203
202.5	196.3	147.6	202.5	196.3	142.9	200.0	193.9	157.1	143	143
190.4	185.0	170.8	190.4	185.0	170.8	184.5	179.2	149.3	181	181
209.5	210.4	162.5	209.5	208.8	158.7	203.2	204.0	144.2	161	161
148.8	182.9	174.4	172.1	180.4	174.4	[b]	[b]	[b]	[b]	[b]
[b]	195.6	182.9	[b]	195.6	185.7	[b]	191.1	182.9	183	183
217.6	217.6	190.9	217.6	217.6	190.9	208.7	211.8	159.3	188	188
212.7	204.3	158.9	212.7	204.3	158.9	210.1	201.8	151.6	181	181
201.1	194.1	193.7	201.1	194.1	192.6	202.3	195.1	184.3	184	184
[b]	190.9	[b]	[b]	190.9	[b]	[b]	181.8	[b]	[b]	[b]
204.4	203.3	202.8	204.4	203.3	204.1	201.3	194.0	191.1	207	219
197.8	191.0	167.7	197.8	191.0	164.5	195.6	188.8	170.9	171	171
166.6	155.3	148.1	163.3	148.0	151.5	164.4	145.8	148.0	153.0	152.8
[b]	[b]	148.6	[b]	[b]	146.1	[b]	[b]	144.1	147	147
175.7	158.0	172.0	162.6	147.2	172.0	172.2	154.0	179.6	198	198
155.9	[b]	109.6	155.9	[b]	126.9	144.1	[b]	119.2	125	125
[b]	[b]	159.0	[b]	[b]	159.0	[b]	[b]	153.8	159	159
167.4	163.6	148.4	169.8	156.5	148.4	185.0	[b]	147.6	148	146
[b]	142.9	137.5	[b]	142.9	141.7	[b]	140.0	133.3	137	140
[b]	[b]	172 4	[b]	[b]	182.2	[b]	[b]	172.0	179	179
202.1	196.4	174.1	201.1	197.9	168.4	193.4	189.0	152.8	180.3	181.6
194.6	197.3	161.5	200.0	202.7	161.5	191.8	191.8	143.6	170	173
[b]	[b]	213.8	[b]	[b]	210.3	[b]	[b]	194.8	207	218
212.1	207.3	163.0	212.1	207.3	163.0	212.1	207.3	163.0	163	163
[b]	[b]	200.0	[b]	[b]	[b]	[b]	[b]	[b]	[b]	[b]
194.7	194.7	133.3	184.2	184.2	120.0	184.2	184.2	120.0	133	133
[b]	[b]	183.3	[b]	[b]	183.3	[b]	[b]	166.7	[b]	[b]
[b]	[b]	180.0	[b]	[b]	172.5	[b]	[b]	150.0	172	173
[b]	190.0	161.1	[b]	190.0	161.1	[b]	190.0	144.4	156	162
205.0	195.2	174.5	210.0	200.0	175.2	190.0	181.0	147.5	171	171
[b]	[b]	[b]	[b]	[b]	[b]	[b]	[b]	[b]	[b]	[b]

[b] No report.

[c] Corrected figure.

[d] See footnote, p. 110.

Table 16: Index Numbers of the Retail Price of Coal 1914 to December,

Base, July,
(National Industrial

Locality	March, 1926			July, 1926			November, 1926		
	Anthracite		Bituminous Coal	Anthracite		Bituminous Coal	Anthracite		Bituminous Coal
	Stove	Chestnut		Stove	Chestnut		Stove	Chestnut	
United States	218.5	209.6	178.5	211.3	201.9	163.9	215.1	205.5	190.7
Eastern District	227.4	215.5	190.0	219.6	205.9	175.3	222.0	208.3	202.3
Albany, N. Y.	273.1	192.3	b	277.4	187.7	b	277.4	187.7	b
Baltimore, Md.	270.2	218.6	119.8	286.1	231.7	113.5	286.1	231.7	128.7
Bloomfield, N. J.	b	b	b	215.4	200.0	199.3	215.4	200.0	199.3
Boston, Mass.	280.4	256.0	180.8	251.7	226.4	177.2	255.6	229.7	232.5
Bridgeport, Conn.	b	b	200.0	151.6	145.8	200.0	161.8	155.6	222.2
Buffalo, N. Y.	215.4	190.3	179.2	214.1	189.2	174.9	214.5	189.2	214.1
Cambridge, Mass.	313.7	319.2	219.1	283.3	283.7	207.5	287.5	288.2	240.3
Fall River, Mass.	241.3	248.3	211.0	223.5	225.0	211.0	223.5	225.0	211.0
Lawrence, Mass.	215.8	205.9	204.9	209.5	199.9	195.0	215.6	205.7	240.0
Lowell, Mass.	229.0	229.9	b	226.0	226.5	b	232.6	233.3	b
Lynn, Mass.	186.0	183.2	259.2	180.6	175.1	221.4	180.6	175.1	288.9
Manchester, N. H.	190.1	188.6	231.7	186.5	184.1	193.1	193.2	189.4	205.3
Newark, N. J.	178.0	159.6	b	176.4	158.2	b	176.4	158.2	b
New Britain, Conn.	b	b	217.5	185.9	191.8	204.1	191.7	197.7	251.7
New Haven, Conn.	b	b	207.8	225.8	218.5	177.1	227.6	220.2	187.0
New York, N. Y.	234.2	229.2	235.1	220.6	216.4	197.6	220.6	216.4	205.9
Paterson, N. J.	241.0	236.1	314.5	223.0	216.5	167.8	223.0	216.5	207.3
Philadelphia, Pa.	230.6	213.7	169.4	226.9	209.4	166.7	226.9	209.4	172.2
Pittsburgh, Pa.	b	135.2	141.7	b	135.2	139.4	b	139.8	185.8
Portland, Me.	210.6	207.4	200.6	207.0	203.3	188.9	209.9	206.1	275.1
Providence, R. I.	260.2	246.7	218.3	239.1	222.3	192.1	241.5	226.7	242.8
Reading, Pa.	315.9	331.3	b	296.3	305.5	201.4	296.3	305.5	214.8
Rochester, N. Y.	238.3	224.8	182.2	238.3	224.8	159.5	238.3	224 8	163.4
Schenectady, N. Y.	221.1	215.2	238.0	213.7	207.8	208.2	221.0	215.3	208.2
Springfield, Mass.	214.8	205.1	147.3	208.3	195.7	138.0	212.4	199.8	143.8
Syracuse, N. Y.	235.4	229.7	b	235.4	234.1	b	235.4	234.1	b
Trenton, N. J.	259.0	224.1	171.6	235.9	200.8	166.6	235.9	200.8	179.0
Washington, D. C.	227.8	241.0	172.4	214.8	232.1	151.8	219.3	235.2	192.9
Wilmington, Del.	229.1	219.8	177.9	222.9	208.8	175.8	222.9	208.8	199.2
Middle Western District	210.6	205.0	181.9	207.5	203.7	166.4	212.4	208.4	201.8
Chicago, Ill.	274.8	271.9	161.4	286.0	279.2	152.4	289.1	282.9	179.1
Cincinnati, Ohio	b	244.4	181.4	264.1	244.4	160.7	266.7	248.1	221.6
Cleveland, Ohio	202.1	221.3	204.1	200.5	210.7	200.2	211.7	213.4	222.9
Columbus, Ohio	b	167.5	187.3	b	161.5	156.4	b	164.1	219.7
Dayton, Ohio	b	163.6	173.9	b	206.0	179.6	b	206.0	232.8
Detroit, Mich.	175.5	160.4	230.0	180.6	164.4	217.8	184.9	168.3	266.9
Duluth, Minn.	202.6	196.4	157.1	270.1	251.3	157.1	270.1	251.3	172.8
Grand Rapids, Mich.	197.6	186.7	164.6	191.5	181.0	143.3	197.5	186.7	177.4
Indianapolis, Ind.	127.4	167.5	159.6	118.1	155.3	137.2	121.6	160.6	178.6
Kansas City, Mo.	b	b	182.9	b	b	b	b	b	b
Louisville, Ky.	b	b	187.7	223.5	223.5	163.1	266.5	252.9	236.0
Milwaukee, Wis.	212.1	185.4	177.8	212.7	184.8	147.0	212.7	184.8	172.9
Minneapolis, Minn.	202.8	197.2	180.4	202.8	197.2	180.4	202.8	197.2	196.2
Omaha, Neb.	b	232.8	b	b	220.4	b	b	227.9	b
St. Louis, Mo.	214.0	206.2	233.7	207.8	200.0	208.9	217.2	210.3	258.3
St. Paul, Minn.	197.8	192.0	168.3	197.8	191.4	165.8	197.8	191.4	174.6
Far Western District	177.1	153.5	154.5	167.9	146.6	141.8	174.5	148.4	154.4
Butte, Mont.	b	b	150.7	b	b	148.2	b	b	149.1
Denver, Colo.	172.2	154.0	200.5	169.3	148.0	180.4	174.8	b	201.0
Los Angeles, Cal.	178.6	b	123.0	158.3	b	119.1	171.1	b	122.9
Portland, Ore.	b	b	162.9	b	b	141.8	b	b	160.2
Salt Lake City, Utah	185.0	156.5	147.6	185.0	156.5	125.4	185.0	156.5	160.0
San Francisco, Cal.	150.0	145.7	141.5	144.1	140.0	133.2	147.0	142.8	137.3
Seattle, Wash.	b	b	178.5	b	b	161.6	b	b	183.6
Southern District	214.8	213.9	185.4	193.0	189.0	164.6	201.4	198.4	193.3
Atlanta, Ga.	219.2	b	172.9	207.4	208.2	149.0	207.4	208.2	207.7
Birmingham, Ala.	b	b	223.4	b	b	208.3	b	b	228.8
Charleston, S. C.	218.3	194.0	163.0	188.0	188.0	163.0	188.0	188.0	163.0
Dallas, Tex.	b	b	b	b	b	b	b	b	189.9
Jacksonville, Fla.	194.7	b	186.7	184.2	170.4	160.0	211.5	195.6	186.7
Little Rock, Ark.	b	b	181.9	b	b	b	b	b	159.2
Macon, Ga.	b	b	176.1	b	b	159.0	b	b	217.3
Memphis, Tenn.	b	266.8	161.3	b	227.0	132.4	b	238.3	172.5
New Orleans, La.	220.3	209.8	177.5	195.2	185.3	148.6	211.9	199.9	177.6
Richmond, Va.	b	b	b	b	b	b	219.9	219.9	211.7

[a] The report for June, 1919 represented the increase over June 1, 1914, for stove and chestnut anthracite and two kinds of bituminous coal; that for November, 1918, the increase over November 1, 1914. These have not been reproduced here. Owing to the anthracite strike, indexes for stove and chestnut were not computed for November or December, 1925.

IN TON LOTS FOR DOMESTIC USE, IN SPECIFIED CITIES, JULY 1927[a]—(*Concluded*)

1914 = 100

Conference Board)

January, 1927			March, 1927			July, 1927			November, 1927		
Anthracite		Bituminous Coal	Anthracite		Bituminous Coal	Anthracite		Bituminous Coal	Anthracite		Bituminous Coal
Stove	Chestnut		Stove	Chestnut		Stove	Chestnut		Stove	Chestnut	
215.3	205.7	184.3	214.7	205.1	180.1	208.4	197.7	169.1	212.1	201.5	173.4
222.2	208.7	193.1	221.3	208.1	189.4	215.0	200.5	180.1	219.5	204.9	180.1
277.4	187.7	b	277.4	187.7	b	268.2	181.2	b	272.8	184.5	b
286.1	231.7	124.3	286.1	231.7	122.1	280.0	222.7	109.0	285.8	227.6	111.2
215.4	200.0	199.3	215.4	200.0	199.3	211.5	196.3	192.6	215.3	200.0	199.1
256.9	230.8	223.9	256.9	230.8	214.0	248.9	223.8	180.7	254.1	228.5	176.9
161.8	155.6	222.2	156.8	150.8	222.2	146.6	141.0	200.0	151.5	145.8	200.0
214.7	189.2	214.1	214.7	189.2	194.1	214.5	188.1	194.1	218.4	191.8	190.5
287.5	288.2	240.3	287.5	288.2	224.0	278.9	279.2	172.1	283.3	283.6	172.1
223.5	225.0	211.0	223.5	225.0	211.0	220.3	220.1	211.0	226.0	225.2	211.0
215.6	205.7	220.1	215.6	205.7	220.1	215.2	205.3	220.1	215.2	205.3	210.0
232.6	233.3	b	232.6	233.3	b	221.5	221.7	b	232.3	233.0	b
186.2	180.6	288.9	186.2	180.6	269.5	175.2	167.1	231.0	180.6	172.4	231.0
193.2	189.4	205.3	193.2	189.4	205.3	186.2	180.6	198.9	191.4	185.7	196.5
176.4	158.2	b	174.8	156.8	b	173.2	155.1	b	176.3	158.0	b
194.6	200.7	238.1	180.0	185.6	224.5	b	b	b	185.8	191.6	224.2
229.4	222.0	187.0	229.4	222.0	187.0	218.4	211.3	177.1	223.9	216.6	177.1
220.6	216.4	206.6	217.5	213.4	206.6	214.6	209.0	210.7	223.1	217.3	210.7
223.0	216.5	184.1	223.0	216.5	184.1	219.1	210.4	184.1	223.3	214.4	184.1
226.9	209.4	172.2	226.9	209.4	168.1	211.8	193.3	159.9	213.7	196.8	159.9
b	139.8	165.9	b	139.8	165.9	b	130.6	154.4	b	130.6	154.4
209.9	206.1	233.6	209.9	206.1	221.7	207.0	203.0	213.3	209.9	205.8	212.0
241.5	226.7	221.2	241.5	226.7	217.7	234.0	217.0	196.8	239.4	222.3	191.2
296.3	305.5	214.8	291.3	301.8	214.8	282.7	288.7	210.5	289.8	293.2	201.5
238.3	224.8	172.7	238.3	224.8	172.7	234.4	220.6	172.7	238.6	224.6	186.0
221.0	215.3	208.2	221.0	215.3	208.2	220.3	213.3	208.2	224.0	217.1	208.2
212.4	199.8	143.8	212.4	199.8	143.8	208.5	195.8	143.0	211.6	198.7	143.9
235.4	234.1	b	232.6	231.1	b	231.3	229.6	b	235.5	234.0	b
235.9	202.0	175.8	235.9	202.0	182.1	224.9	192.9	167.3	230.3	197.5	167.3
216.7	233.8	171.5	215.4	233.3	165.3	206.7	220.0	160.7	210.0	223.7	161.6
222.9	208.8	192.8	222.9	208.8	184.8	213.8	197.9	182.6	217.6	201.7	182.6
212.0	208.0	193.0	211.6	207.8	185.6	205.8	199.7	173.2	208.9	202.9	179.3
290.3	283.7	179.6	290.3	283.7	171.3	280.9	270.3	171.3	284.8	274.7	171.3
226.7	248.0	185.2	266.7	248.0	173.2	261.4	240.6	165.0	261.4	240.6	165.0
211.7	213.4	213.5	211.7	213.4	212.0	205.7	205.5	200.4	207.3	209.0	202.0
b	164.1	190.6	b	164.1	184.9	b	154.9	168.4	b	154.9	178.0
b	206.0	198.0	b	206.0	183.4	b	206.0	190.4	b	206.0	192.3
184.9	168.3	260.5	182.1	168.3	251.0	174.9	158.9	228.7	178.4	162.2	233.6
270.1	251.3	178.0	270.1	251.3	178.0	267.5	248.8	172.8	273.4	251.4	172.8
197.5	186.7	177.4	197.5	182.6	153.1	191.6	177.1	146.2	197.5	184.3	151.8
121.6	160.6	173.3	121.6	160.6	161.7	118.1	155.0	140.4	119.8	156.7	154.8
247.8	235.2	216.9	247.8	235.2	203.2	b	223.4	170.7	b	229.2	195.1
212.7	184.8	170.1	212.7	184.8	163.3	207.7	177.1	149.8	210.8	179.9	152.5
202.8	197.2	200.1	202.8	197.2	200.1	200.5	191.5	175.5	203.3	194.2	188.8
b	227.9	b	b	227.9	b	b	227.9	b	b	227.9	b
218.1	210.3	268.9	218.1	210.3	268.9	207.6	197.8	255.9	210.3	200.4	259.8
197.8	191.4	177.0	197.8	191.4	177.0	195.4	186.0	165.7	198.1	188.6	174.3
175.7	150.0	155.3	175.7	150.0	154.8	171.3	146.6	145.0	176.2	148.4	153.4
b	b	149.1	b	b	148.7	b	b	148.7	b	b	148.7
174.8	152.0	201.0	174.8	b	201.0	168.4	b	173.9	169.4	b	197.8
171.1	b	126.7	171.1	b	124.8	167.7	b	119.1	176.2	b	126.8
b	b	160.2	b	b	160.2	b	b	152.4	b	b	157.6
185.0	156.5	160.0	185.0	156.5	160.0	185.0	156.5	142.6	185.0	156.5	169.5
152.9	148.5	141.4	152.9	148.5	141.4	144.0	139.9	129.0	149.9	145.6	137.3
b	b	183.6	b	b	183.6	b	b	173.2	b	b	158.2
202.2	199.2	194.8	202.2	199.6	191.7	192.2	187.8	169.4	197.6	192.9	182.9
207.4	208.2	175.7	207.4	208.2	175.7	207.4	208.2	149.0	207.4	208.2	170.3
b	b	240.0	b	b	238.3	b	b	233.4	b	b	244.4
188.0	185.0	163.0	188.0	188.5	163.0	188.0	186.2	163.0	188.0	186.2	163.0
b	b	189.9	b	b	189.9	b	b	b	b	b	b
211.5	195.6	186.7	211.5	195.6	186.7	195.6	180.9	160.0	211.4	195.6	186.7
b	b	b	b	b	166.8	b	b	151.6	b	b	166.8
b	b	214.0	b	b	202.1	b	b	166.2	b	b	185.0
b	238.3	184.1	b	238.3	184.1	b	226.9	172.7	b	226.9	172.7
217.4	204.7	185.9	217.4	204.7	185.9	195.0	182.8	148.8	205.9	195.0	169.5
219.9	219.9	211.7	219.9	219.9	188.2	206.5	206.5	188.3	206.5	206.5	188.3

[b] No report.

increased quite rapidly to November, 1922. Since November, 1922, anthracite prices have averaged more than double their pre-war quotations in most places and, season for season, were higher in 1925 than at any time since 1914. The trend of bituminous coal prices, on the other hand, was downward during this period.

"The course of coal prices is thus seen to have affected different families differently, according as they lived in communities where anthracite or bituminous coal was the outstanding domestic fuel. The average cost of coal as shown in a combination of anthracite and bituminous coal price changes, therefore, has not always reflected local conditions. This caution has been repeatedly made in the Board's reports and figures have always been given for separate localities."

Figures for the different localities, together with averages for the different geographical regions, are found in Table 16.

Gas and Electricity

It will be recalled that since the establishment of the index number of the National Industrial Conference Board several changes have taken place in the manner in which the prices for gas and electricity have been gathered. Every effort was made to make the series of indexes incorporated into the general index of changes in the cost of living reasonably continuous, but the change in method precludes the study in detail of the development of the individual services throughout the period. In the course of these changes, electricity has assumed a somewhat larger place in the total than before. The effect of this change upon the general index would have been to diminish somewhat the computed index for the earlier years in which gas predominated. The process would have been somewhat laborious and the resultant change comparatively slight in the combined gas and electricity index and almost imperceptible in the general index. Hence the figures already computed were not revised.

For the figures collected by the new and comprehensive method in use since November, 1925, index numbers are stated in Table 17.

Table 17: Index Numbers of the Cost of Gas and Electricity for Domestic Use in Specified Cities[a] on Specified Dates, 1925 to 1927

Base, July, 1914 = 100

(National Industrial Conference Board)

City	Gas				Electricity			
	Nov., 1925	June, 1926	Jan., 1927	June, 1927	Nov., 1925	June, 1926	Jan., 1927	June, 1927
Akron, Ohio	136	150	283	283	84	84	91	91
Albany, N. Y.	120	120	120	120	100	100	100	100
Allentown, Pa.	130	130	130	130	101	101	101	101
Altoona, Pa.	182	182	182	182	90	100	100	100
Atlanta, Ga.	155	155	155	155	116	116	116	116
Atlantic City, N. J.	167	167	167	167	102	92	92	92
Augusta, Ga.	161	161	161	161	83	83	83	83
Baltimore, Md.	106	106	106	106	94	94	82	82
Bayonne, N. J.	133	133	133	133	90	90	90	90
Berkeley, Cal.	106	106	106	106	107	107	107	107
Bethlehem, Pa.	130	130	130	130	101	101	101	101
Binghamton, N. Y.	96	96	96	96	111	111	111	111
Birmingham, Ala.	84	84	84	84	85	85	85	85
Boston, Mass.	150	150	150	150	85	85	85	85
Bridgeport, Conn.	151	145	145	145	81	81	81	81
Brockton, Mass.	150	150	150	150	67	67	67	67
Buffalo, N. Y.	60	65	65	65	73	77	77	77
Cambridge, Mass.	144	144	144	144	80	80	80	80
Camden, N. J.	133	133	133	133	90	90	90	90
Canton, Ohio	185	185	283	283	94	94	94	94
Charleston, S. C.	141	141	141	141	100	100	100	100
Chattanooga, Tenn.	158	158	158	158	100	100	90	90
Chester, Pa.	170	170	170	170	80	82	82	82
Chicago, Ill.	133	133	133	133	80	90	90	90
Cincinnati, Ohio	214	214	214	214	90	90	90	90
Cleveland, Ohio	233	250	250	250	50	50	50	50
Columbus, Ohio	183	183	183	160	100	100	100	100
Covington, Ky.	150	[b]	150	250	100	[b]	100	100
Dallas, Tex.	187	187	214	214	67	67	67	67
Davenport, Ia.	130	[b]	144	144	90	90	90	90
Dayton, Ohio	167	167	233	233	94	94	94	94
Denver, Col.	119	119	119	113	100	100	100	84
Des Moines, Ia.	128	128	128	[b]	81	100	100	[b]
Detroit, Mich.	100	100	100	100	102	88	88	88
Duluth, Minn.	100	100	100	100	75	75	75	75
East Orange, N. J.	133	133	133	133	90	90	90	90
East St. Louis, Ill.	130	130	130	130	100	100	100	100
Elizabeth, N. J.	133	133	133	133	90	90	90	90
El Paso, Tex.	115	[b]	[b]	[b]	81	81	81	81
Erie, Pa.	250	250	250	250	100	95	95	95

[a] These figures are based on the cost of 2,000 cubic feet of gas and 20 kilowatt hours of electricity, taking into account extra charges and discounts.

[b] No report.

Table 17: Index Numbers of the Cost of Gas and Electricity for Domestic Use in Specified Cities[a] on Specified Dates, 1925 to 1927—(*Continued*)

Base, July, 1914 = 100

(National Industrial Conference Board)

City	Gas				Electricity			
	Nov., 1925	June, 1926	Jan., 1927	June, 1927	Nov., 1925	June, 1926	Jan., 1927	June, 1927
Evansville, Ind.	142	142	142	142	100	100	100	100
Fall River, Mass.	144	144	144	144	95	89	89	89
Flint, Mich.	130	125	125	125	100	100	100	100
Fort Wayne, Ind.	153	153	153	153	71	63	63	63
Fort Worth, Tex.	150	150	150	150	80	65	65	65
Gary, Ind.	100	100	100	100	89	89	89	89
Grand Rapids, Mich.	111	111	111	111	100	100	100	100
Harrisburg, Pa.	111	100	115	115	100	100	100	100
Hartford, Conn.	139	139	139	139	105	105	99	99
Haverhill, Mass.	147	147	147	147	92	92	89	89
Hoboken, N. J.	133	133	133	133	90	90	90	90
Holyoke, Mass.	125	125	125	125	83	83	83	83
Houston, Tex.	105	105	90	90	69	84	71	71
Huntington, W. Va.	125	125	125	167	100	100	100	100
Indianapolis, Ind.	209	191	191	173	104	90	90	87
Jacksonville, Fla.	180	177	177	177	[b]	[b]	[b]	[b]
Jersey City, N. J.	133	133	133	133	90	90	90	90
Johnstown, Pa.	317	317	317	317	100	100	100	100
Kansas City, Kans.	[b]	[b]	[b]	[b]	109	100	100	100
Kansas City, Mo.	137	137	166	166	92	97	76	76
Knoxville, Tenn.	[b]	183	183	183	124	124	124	124
Lancaster, Pa.	132	132	132	132	100	100	100	100
Lansing, Mich.	156	156	156	156	75	75	75	75
Lawrence, Mass.	150	150	150	150	85	81	77	77
Lincoln, Neb.	103	102	103	104	68	56	56	56
Little Rock, Ark.	200	200	200	200	100	100	100	100
Long Beach, Cal.	50	59	59	59	93	93	93	80
Los Angeles, Cal.	100	100	100	100	102	102	102	102
Louisville, Ky.	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Lowell, Mass.	162	162	157	157	83	83	83	83
Lynn, Mass.	160	160	160	160	90	90	90	90
Macon, Ga.	132	132	132	132	100	100	100	100
Manchester, N. H.	143	143	143	130	105	105	105	105
Memphis, Tenn.	90	120	120	120	80	80	80	80
Milwaukee, Wis.	113	113	113	113	88	88	77	77
Minneapolis, Minn.	116	121	116	120	111	111	111	111
Mobile, Ala.	180	164	164	176	129	129	129	129
Nashville, Tenn.	178	178	178	178	100	91	91	91
Newark, N. J.	133	133	133	133	90	90	90	90
New Bedford, Mass.	140	150	150	150	69	65	65	62

[a] These figures are based on the cost of 2,000 cubic feet of gas and 20 kilowatt hours of electricity, taking into account extra charges and discounts.

[b] No report.

Table 17: Index Numbers of the Cost of Gas and Electricity for Domestic Use in Specified Cities[a] on Specified Dates, 1925 to 1927—(*Continued*)

Base, July, 1914 = 100

(National Industrial Conference Board)

City	Gas				Electricity			
	Nov., 1925	June, 1926	Jan., 1927	June, 1927	Nov., 1925	June, 1926	Jan., 1927	June, 1927
New Britain, Conn.	150	150	[b]	[b]	150	85	85	90
New Haven, Conn.	136	133	133	133	81	81	81	81
New Orleans, La.	130	130	130	130	92	92	92	92
New York, N. Y.	140	140	140	146	75	69	74	72
Niagara Falls, N. Y.	135	135	135	97	100	100	100	100
Norfolk, Va.	140	135	135	135	100	100	100	94
Oakland, Cal.	106	106	106	106	107	107	107	107
Oklahoma City, Okla.	252	260	260	260	86	82	82	82
Omaha, Neb.	98	98	98	98	65	53	53	53
Passaic, N. J.	133	133	133	133	90	90	90	90
Paterson, N. J.	133	133	133	133	90	90	90	90
Pawtucket, R. I.	138	138	138	138	100	100	100	100
Peoria, Ill.	120	120	120	120	87	87	87	87
Philadelphia, Pa.	100	100	100	100	67	67	67	67
Pittsburgh, Pa.	218	229	229	229	73	80	80	80
Portland, Me.	155	150	150	150	94	100	100	100
Portland, Ore.	129	129	129	131	142	142	142	142
Portsmouth, Va.	150	150	150	150	100	100	100	94
Providence, R. I.	147	147	147	147	93	93	95	93
Racine, Wis.	125	125	125	125	92	100	84	84
Reading, Pa.	135	135	135	135	88	88	88	79
Richmond, Va.	144	144	144	144	100	100	100	94
Roanoke, Va.	125	125	125	125	100	100	100	100
Rochester, N. Y.	105	105	105	105	100	100	100	100
Rockford, Ill.	147	147	147	147	83	83	83	83
Sacramento, Cal.	123	123	123	123	100	114	114	114
Saginaw, Mich.	139	139	139	139	100	100	100	100
St. Joseph, Mo.	165	165	165	165	104	104	70	70
St. Louis, Mo.	125	125	125	125	67	67	67	67
St. Paul, Minn.	85	106	106	106	100	90	90	90
Salt Lake City, Utah	87	169	169	169	90	90	90	90
San Antonio, Tex.	84	80	80	80	71	71	71	71
San Diego, Cal.	80	80	121	121	101	114	114	114
San Francisco, Cal.	112	112	112	112	107	107	107	107
Savannah, Ga.	116	116	116	116	150	150	111	111
Schenectady, N. Y.	85	87	87	87	100	100	100	100
Scranton, Pa.	79	158	161	161	111	111	111	111
Seattle, Wash.	200	150	150	200	92	92	92	92
Sioux City, Ia.	125	125	125	125	75	78	78	78
Somerville, Mass.	147	147	147	147	85	85	85	85

[a] These figures are based on the cost of 2,000 cubic feet of gas and 20 kilowatt hours of electricity, taking into account extra charges and discounts.

[b] No report.

TABLE 17: INDEX NUMBERS OF THE COST OF GAS AND ELECTRICITY FOR DOMESTIC USE IN SPECIFIED CITIES[a] ON SPECIFIED DATES, 1925 TO 1927—(*Concluded*)

Base, July, 1914 = 100

(National Industrial Conference Board)

City	Gas				Electricity			
	Nov., 1925	June, 1926	Jan., 1927	June, 1927	Nov., 1925	June, 1926	Jan., 1927	June, 1927
South Bend, Ind.	122	122	122	122	80	80	80	80
Spokane, Wash.	144	144	144	146	100	69	69	69
Springfield, Ill.	135	125	125	125	65	65	65	65
Springfield, Mass.	159	159	159	159	71	67	67	58
Springfield, Ohio.	200	200	200	200	114	100	100	100
Syracuse, N. Y.	119	119	119	119	94	94	94	94
Tacoma, Wash.	148	148	148	148	100	100	100	[b]
Tampa, Fla.	123	123	123	123	93	93	93	93
Terre Haute, Ind.	122	129	129	[b]	78	[b]	78	[b]
Toledo, Ohio	100	107	100	100	100	100	100	100
Topeka, Kan.	147	147	147	147	100	74	74	74
Trenton, N. J.	133	133	133	133	90	90	90	90
Troy, N. Y.	130	130	130	125	89	89	89	89
Tulsa, Okla.	191	317	317	317	81	81	81	81
Utica, N. Y.	123	123	123	123	85	85	85	85
Washington, D. C.	111	118	118	118	75	72	67	67
Waterbury, Conn.	136	[b]	[b]	[b]	150	85	85	85
Wheeling, W. Va.	200	200	200	200	100	100	100	118
Wichita, Kan.	100	318	318	[b]	100	68	68	68
Wilkes-Barre, Pa.	145	145	145	145	100	100	100	100
Wilmington, Del.	137	137	137	137	95	95	95	95
Worcester, Mass.	203	203	203	203	78	78	78	78
Yonkers, N. Y.	150	150	150	150	92	85	85	85
Youngstown, Ohio	[b]	117	283	283	95	96	96	96
United States	..	138	140	141	..	87	86	85

[a] These figures are based on the cost of 2,000 cubic feet of gas and 20 kilowatt hours of electricity, taking into account extra charges and discounts.

[b] No report.

This table reveals generally higher prices for gas and lower prices for electricity than in 1914. Indeed, the average index number for the United States in June, 1927 was for gas 141 and for electricity 85, as compared with 100 in 1914. Examining the figures in detail, it will be found that in nine only of the cities named were gas prices in June, 1927 lower than in 1914 and that in as many as eighteen cities gas prices were double those of 1914. On the other hand, the

prices of electric current are lower in most of the cities named in the table than they were in 1914. In all, twenty-seven cities maintained in 1927 the same rates as in 1914 and only fourteen have higher rates now than then.

The Combined Index of Fuel and Light

The general index of fuel and light[1] is a compound of three elements with most diverse tendencies as respects the general level of prices. Coal rises sharply above the average, gas falls slightly below it, while electricity falls far below the general average. By reason, however, of the greater weight assigned to coal in making up the group average, the index for the combined group approached the general average.

Sundries

The sundries group is made up of a series of quite distinct sub-groups concerning few of which there is or can be a direct and systematic enumeration of actual prices and where for the most part reliance must be placed on estimating processes. However, the group is the second largest in the pre-war budget of industrial wage earners, which is taken as a basis for the measurement of changes in retail prices affecting the cost of living. The indexes for the several sub-groups which enter into the computation of the group index for use in the total index of the cost of living are shown in Table 18.

Carfares

There is a systematic and regular compilation of the rates charged for carfare in a large number of cities. The problems of securing comparable figures throughout the entire period, which has been unusually prolific of adjustments of rates, have already been explained. The information which has been collected regarding carfares and the index numbers based upon it are shown in Table 19.

The Total Cost of Living

Something in the nature of a summary of the total cost of living, drawing together all the various groups and articles,

[1] See p. 108 of this volume.

(*Text continued on page 138.*)

Table 18: Index Numbers of the Average Cost of Itemized Sundries on Specified Dates, July, 1914 to December, 1927

Base, July, 1914=100

(National Industrial Conference Board)

Item	July, 1914	March, 1920	July, 1920	November, 1920	March, 1921	July, 1921	November, 1921	March, 1922	July, 1922	November, 1922	March, 1923	July, 1923	November, 1923	March, 1924	July, 1924	November, 1924	March, 1925	July, 1925	November, 1925	December, 1925
Carfare	100	140	140	148	148	156	160	160	160	148	148	148	148	148	148	152	152	152	142[a]	142
Medical care																				
Doctors	100	166	169	194	197	200	200	200	200	200	200	200	200	200	200	200	200	200	200	200
Drugs	100	160	160	167	153	153	133	133	133	140	147	147	167	167	167	180	180	180	187	187
Reading	100	192	192	192	192	192	192	192	192	183	183	183	183	183	183	183	183	183	183	183
Recreation	100	211	213	213	213	213	211	211	211	211	211	211	211	211	207	207	207	209	209	209
Insurance	100	184	196	206	196	192	176	170	170	170	170	170	170	170	170	170	170	170	173	176
Household	100	225	225	225	192	192	192	175	167	175	183	183	183	187	183	188	188	187	187	188
Church and charity	100	174	174	192	192	190	170	170	170	170	170	170	170	170	170	170	170	170	173	176
Dues	100	143	143	143	143	143	143	143	143	143	143	143	143	143	143	143	143	143	143	143
Tobacco	100	175	175	175	175	175	155	145	145	135	135	135	135	135	135	135	135	135	135	135
Candy	100	180	190	190	170	170	150	150	150	160	170	170	170	170	170	170	170	170	170	170
All items	100	183	185	192	185	185	178	174	172	171	173	173	174	174	173	175	175	175	175	176

[a] This figure somewhat exaggerates the apparent decrease between July and November, owing to the fact that twice as many cities were covered in the later than in the earlier period, and the method of computation was slightly changed. The American Electric Railway Association, which computes its index on the basis of cash fares, showed a very small increase in average fares between July and November, 1925, as did the index computed by Albert S. Richey, in which rates are weighted by the number of passengers carried.

TABLE 18: INDEX NUMBERS OF THE AVERAGE COST OF ITEMIZED SUNDRIES, ON SPECIFIED DATES, JULY, 1914 TO DECEMBER, 1927—(*Concluded*)

Base, July, 1914 = 100

(National Industrial Conference Board)

Item	Jan., 1926	Feb., 1926	Mar., 1926	Apr., 1926	May, 1926	June, 1926	July, 1926	Aug., 1926	Sept., 1926	Oct., 1926	Nov., 1926	Dec., 1926	Jan., 1927	Feb., 1927	Mar., 1927	Apr., 1927	May, 1927	June, 1927	July, 1927	Aug., 1927	Sept., 1927	Oct., 1927	Nov., 1927	Dec., 1927
Carfare	143	143	143	143	143	143	143	143	143	145	145	145	145	145	145	145	145	146	147	147	147	147	147	147
Medical care																								
Doctors' fees	200	200	200	200	200	200	200	200	200	200	200	200	200	200	200	200	200	200	200	200	200	200	200	200
Drugs	187	184	184	184	184	184	184	184	184	184	184	184	184	184	184	184	174	169	169	169	169	169	169	169
Reading	183	183	183	182	182	182	181	181	181	182	182	182	182	182	182	182	182	182	182	182	182	182	182	182
Recreation	209	209	209	209	209	209	209	209	209	209	209	209	209	209	209	209	209	209	209	209	209	209	209	209
Insurance	176	175	174	173	173	172	172	170	169	171	171	172	173	171	169	168	168	168	169	166	166	167	168	168
Household	188	187	187	187	186	185	184	183	183	183	182	182	181	181	182	181	182	181	181	181	182	183	183	183
Church and charity	176	175	174	173	173	172	172	170	169	171	171	172	173	171	169	168	168	168	169	166	166	167	168	168
Dues	143	143	143	143	143	143	143	143	143	143	143	143	143	143	143	143	143	143	143	143	143	143	143	143
Tobacco	135	135	132	131	131	131	131	132	132	132	132	132	135	135	135	135	135	135	135	135	135	135	135	135
Candy	170	170	170	170	170	170	170	170	170	170	170	170	170	170	170	170	170	170	170	170	170	170	170	170
All items	176	175	175	174	174	174	174	173	173	174	173	174	174	174	173	173	173	172	173	172	172	174	173	174

Table 19: Rates and Index Numbers of Carfare in Specified Cities, on Specified Dates, July, 1914 to December, 1927

July, 1914 = 100

(National Industrial Conference Board)

Note: This table continues figures for November and December, 1925, given in a corresponding table (H) on page 202 in "The Cost of Living in the United States, 1914–1926."

Locality	Rate of Fare							Index Numbers					
	July, 1914	Nov., 1925	Dec., 1925	June, 1926	Dec., 1926	June, 1927	Dec., 1927	Nov., 1925	Dec., 1925	June, 1926	Dec., 1926	June, 1927	Dec., 1927
Akron, Ohio	.042	.059	.059	.059	.059	.059	.059	140	140	140	140	140	140
Alameda, Cal.	.050	.060	.060	.060	.060	.070	.070	120	120	120	120	140	140
Albany, N. Y.	.050	.070	.070	.070	.070	.077	.077	140	140	140	140	154	154
Allentown, Pa.	.050	.070	.070	.070	.070	.070	.075	140	140	140	140	140	150
Altoona, Pa.	.040	.070	.070	.070	.070	.070	.070	175	175	175	175	175	175
Amsterdam, N. Y.	.042	.075	.075	.075	.075	.083	.083	179	179	179	179	198	198
Anderson, Ind.	.042	.050	.050	.050	.050	.050	.050	119	119	119	119	119	119
Asheville, N. C.	.042	.058	.058	.058	.058	.058	.058	138	138	138	138	138	138
Atlanta, Ga.	.050	.067	.067	.067	.067	.067	.075	134	134	134	134	134	150
Atlantic City, N. J.	.050	.050	.050	.050	.050	.070	.070	100	100	100	100	140	140
Auburn, N. Y.	.046	.070	.070	.070	.070	.070	[a]	152	152	152	152	152	[a]
Augusta, Ga.	.050	.070	.070	.070	.070	.070	.070	140	140	140	140	140	140
Aurora, Ill.	.042	.071	.071	.071	.071	.071	.071	169	169	169	169	169	169
Austin, Texas	.045	.063	.063	.063	.063	.063	.063	140	140	140	140	140	140
Baltimore, Md.	.050	.075	.075	.075	.075	.075	.075	150	150	150	150	150	150
Bangor, Me.	.050	.100	.100	.100	.100	.100	.100	200	200	200	200	200	200
Battle Creek, Mich.	.042	.063	.063	.063	.063	.083	.083	150	150	150	150	198	198
Bay City, Mich.	.042	.063	.063	[b]	[b]	[b]	[b]	150	150	[b]	[b]	[b]	[b]
Bayonne, N. J.	.050	.050	.050	.050	.050	.050	.050	100	100	100	100	100	100
Beaumont, Texas	.050	.060	.060	.060	.060	.060	.060	120	120	120	120	120	120
Bellingham, Wash.	.042	.063	.063	.063	.063	.063	.063	150	150	150	150	150	150
Berkeley, Cal.	.050	.060	.060	.060	.060	.070	.070	120	120	120	120	140	140
Bethlehem, Pa.	.050	.070	.070	.070	.070	.070	.075	140	140	140	140	140	150
Binghamton, N. Y.	.050	.070	.070	.070	.070	.070	.075	140	140	140	140	140	150
Birmingham, Ala.	.050	.060	.060	.060	.060	.060	.060	120	120	120	120	120	120

Bloomington, Ill.	.042	.063	.063	.063	.063	.075	.075	150	150	150	150	179	179
Boston, Mass.	.050	.100[c]	.100[c]	.100[c]	.100[c]	.100[c]	.100[c]	200[c]	200[c]	200[c]	200[c]	200[c]	200[c]
Bridgeport, Conn.	.050	.083	.083	.083	.083	.083	.083	166	166	166	166	166	166
Brockton, Mass.	.050	.059	.071	.071	.067	.067	.067	118	142	142	134	134	134
Brookline, Mass.	.050	.100	.100	.100	.100	.100	.100	200	200	200	200	200	200
Buffalo, N. Y.	.050	.075	.075	.075	.075	.083	.083	150	150	150	150	166	166
Butte, Mont.	.050	.063	.063	.063	.063	.063	.063	126	126	126	126	126	126
Cambridge, Mass.	.050	.100	.100	.100	.100	.100	.100	200	200	200	200	200	200
Camden, N. J.	.050	.050	.050	.050	.050	.050	.050	100	100	100	100	100	100
Canton, Ohio	.042	.053	.053	.053	.053	.058	.058	126	126	126	126	138	138
Cedar Rapids, Ia.	.050	.083	.083	.083	.083	.083	.083	166	166	166	166	166	166
Charleston, S. C.	.050	.063	.063	.063	.063	.063	.063	126	126	126	126	126	126
Charleston, W. Va.	.042	.060	.060	.060	.060	.060	.060	143	143	143	143	143	143
Charlotte, N. C.	.046	.063	.063	.063	.063	.063	.063	137	137	137	137	137	137
Chattanooga, Tenn.	.040	.070	.070	.070	.070	.070	.070	175	175	175	175	175	175
Chelsea, Mass.	.050	.063	.063	.063	.071	.071	.071	126	126	126	142	142	142
Chester, Pa.	.050	.075	.075	.075	.075	.075	.075	150	150	150	150	150	150
Chicago, Ill.	.050	.075[e]	.075[e]	.075[e]	.075[e]	.075[e]	.075	150	150	150	150	150	150
Chicopee, Mass.	.050	.083	.083	.083	.083	.083	.083	166	166	166	166	166	166
Cicero, Ill.	.050	.100	.100	.100	.100	.100	.100	200	200	200	200	200	200
Cincinnati, Ohio	.050	.083	.083	.083	.083	.083	.083	166	166	166	166	166	166
Clarksburg, W. Va.	.045	.063	.063	.063	.063	.063	.063	140	140	140	140	140	140
Cleveland, Ohio	.030	.056	.056	.056	.063	.063	.063	187	187	187	210	210	210
Clifton, N. J.	.050	.050	.050	.050	.050	.050	.050	100	100	100	100	100	100
Colorado Springs, Col.	.050	.100	.100	.075	.075	.067	.067	200	200	150	150	134	134
Columbia, S. C.	.050	.070	.070	.100	.100	[d]	[d]	140	140	200	200	[d]	[d]
Columbus, Ga.	.050	.067	.067	.067	.067	.067	.067	134	134	134	134	134	134
Columbus, Ohio	.031	.050	.050	.050	.050	.050	.050	161	161	161	161	161	161
Council Bluffs, Ia.	.050	.063	.063	.063	.063	.063	.100	126	126	126	126	126	200
Covington, Ky.	.050	.050	.050	.050	.050	.050	.050	100	100	100	100	100	100

[a] Service discontinued in October, 1927. [b] Service discontinued. [d] Service discontinued in April, 1927.

[c] Boston has a few six-cent hauls, without transfer privileges, but they are a very small part of the total business, and are not considered here.

[e] The Chicago surface lines and the Chicago Rapid Transit carry so nearly the same number of passengers that the changes in rates have been averaged evenly.

Table 19: Rates and Index Numbers of Carfare in Specified Cities, on Specified Dates, July, 1914 to December, 1927—(*Continued*)

July, 1914 = 100

(National Industrial Conference Board)

Note: This table continues figures for November and December, 1925, given in a corresponding table (H) on page 202 in "The Cost of Living in the United States, 1914–1926."

Locality	Rate of Fare							Index Numbers					
	July, 1914	Nov., 1925	Dec., 1925	June, 1926	Dec., 1926	June, 1927	Dec., 1927	Nov., 1925	Dec., 1925	June, 1926	Dec., 1926	June, 1927	Dec., 1927
Cranston, R. I.	.050	.070	.070	.070	.070	.070	.070	140	140	140	140	140	140
Cumberland, Md.	.050	.060	.060	.060	.060	.060	.060	120	120	120	120	120	120
Dallas, Texas	.046	.060	.060	.060	.060	.060	.060	130	130	130	130	130	130
Danville, Ill.	.046	.060	.060	.060	.060	.060	.060	130	130	130	130	130	130
Davenport, Ia.	.050	.083	.083	.083	.083	.083	.083	166	166	166	166	166	166
Dayton, Ohio	.042	.050	.050	.050	.050	.050	.050	119	119	119	119	119	119
Decatur, Ill.	.042	.056	.056	.056	.056	.056	.056	133	133	133	133	133	133
Denver, Col.	.050	.075	.075	.075	.075	.075	.075	150	150	150	150	150	150
Des Moines, Ia.	.042	.090	.100	.100	.100	.100	.100	214	238	238	238	238	238
Detroit, Mich.	.042	.056	.056	.056	.056	.056	.056	133	133	133	133	133	133
Dubuque, Ia.	.025	.063	.063	.063	.063	.063	.063	252	252	252	252	252	252
Duluth, Minn.	.050	.060	.060	.060	.070	.070	.070	120	120	120	140	140	140
East Chicago, Ind.	.042	.071	.071	.071	.071	.071	.071	169	169	169	169	169	169
East Cleveland, Ohio	.030	.056	.056	.056	.056	.063	.063	187	187	187	187	210	210
Easton, Pa.	.050	.070	.070	.070	.070	.070	.070	140	140	140	140	140	140
East Orange, N. J.	.050	.050	.050	.050	.050	.050	.050	100	100	100	100	100	100
East St. Louis, Ill.	.050	.075	.075	.080	.080	.080	.080	150	150	160	160	160	160
Elgin, Ill.	.036	.071	.071	.071	.071	.071	.071	197	197	197	197	197	197
Elizabeth, N. J.	.050	.050	.050	.050	.050	.050	.050	100	100	100	100	100	100
Elkhart, Ind.	.050	.050	.050	.063	.063	.063	.063	100	100	126	126	126	126
Elmira, N. Y.	.050	.060	.070	.070	.070	.070	.070	120	140	140	140	140	140
El Paso, Texas	.050	.060	.060	.060	.060	.060	.060	120	120	120	120	120	120
Erie, Pa.	.050	.075	.075	.075	.075	.075	.083	150	150	150	150	150	166
Evanston, Ill.	.050	.060	.060	.060	.060	.055	.055	120	120	120	120	110	110
Evansville, Ind.	.042	.050	.050	.063	.063	.063	.063	119	119	150	150	150	150

Everett, Mass.	.050	.050	.050	.050	.050	.060	.063	100	100	100	100	120	126
Everett, Wash.	.050	.063	.063	.063	.063	.063	.063	126	126	126	126	126	126
Fall River, Mass.	.050	.053	.053	.053	.056	.056	.056	106	106	106	112	112	112
Fitchburg, Mass.	.050	.100	.100	.100	.100	.100	.100	200	200	200	200	200	200
Flint, Mich.	.050	.060	.060	.060	.060	.059	.059	120	120	120	120	118	118
Fort Smith, Ark.	.050	.070	.075	.075	.075	.075	.075	140	150	150	150	150	150
Fort Wayne, Ind.	.042	.063	.063	.063	.063	.063	.063	150	150	150	150	150	150
Fort Worth, Texas	.046	.070	.070	.070	.070	.083	.083	152	152	152	152	180	180
Fresno, Cal.	.050	.060	.060	.060	.060	.060	.067	120	120	120	120	120	134
Galveston, Texas	.050	.060	.060	.060	.060	.060	.060	120	120	120	120	120	120
Gary, Ind.	.042	.071	.071	.071	.071	.071	.071	169	169	169	169	169	169
Grand Rapids, Mich.	.050	.083	.083	.083	.083	.083	.083	166	166	166	166	166	166
Green Bay, Wis.	.042	.063	.063	.063	.063	.063	.063	150	150	150	150	150	150
Hagerstown, Md.	.050	.060	.060	.060	.060	.060	.060	120	120	120	120	120	120
Hamilton, Ohio.	.042	.050	.050	.050	.050	.050	.050	119	119	119	119	119	119
Hammond, Ind.	.042	.071	.071	.071	.071	.071	.071	169	169	169	169	169	169
Hamtramck, Mich.	.042	.056	.056	.056	.056	.056	.056	133	133	133	133	133	133
Harrisburg, Pa.	.050	.060	.060	.060	.060	.060	.060	120	120	120	120	120	120
Hartford, Conn.	.050	.083	.083	.083	.083	.083	.083	166	166	166	166	166	166
Haverhill, Mass.	.050	.083	.083	.083	.091	.091	.091	166	166	166	182	182	182
Hazleton, Pa.	.045	.065	.065	.065	.065	.065	.065	144	144	144	144	144	144
Highland Park, Mich.	.042	.056	.056	.056	.056	.056	.056	133	133	133	133	133	133
Hoboken, N. J.	.050	.050	.050	.050	.050	.050	.050	100	100	100	100	100	100
Holyoke, Mass.	.050	.060	.060	.060	.060	.060	.075	120	120	120	120	120	150
Houston, Texas	.050	.063	.063	.063	.063	.075	.075	126	126	126	126	150	150
Huntington, W. Va.	.050	.060	.060	.060	.060	.060	.060	120	120	120	120	120	120
Indianapolis, Ind.	.042	.063	.063	.063	.063	.063	.063	150	150	150	150	150	150
Irvington, N. J.	.050	.050	.050	.050	.050	.050	.050	100	100	100	100	100	100
Jackson, Mich.	.042	.063	.063	.063	.063	.083	.083	150	150	150	150	198	198
Jacksonville, Fla.	.050	.070	.070	.070	.070	.070	.070	140	140	140	140	140	140
Jamestown, N. Y.	.046	.070	.070	.070	.075	.075	.075	152	152	152	163	163	163
Jersey City, N. J.	.050	.050	.050	.050	.050	.050	.050	100	100	100	100	100	100
Johnstown, Pa.	.050	.075	.075	.075	.075	.075	.083	150	150	150	150	150	166
Joliet, Ill.	.050	.100	.100	.100	.100	.100	.100	200	200	200	200	200	200
Joplin, Mo.	.050	.060	.060	.080	.080	.075	.075	120	120	160	160	150	150

Table 19: Rates and Index Numbers of Carfare in Specified Cities, on Specified Dates, July, 1914 to December, 1927—(*Continued*)

July, 1914 = 100

(National Industrial Conference Board)

Note: This table continues figures for November and December, 1925, given in a corresponding table (H) on page 202 in "The Cost of Living in the United States, 1914–1926."

Locality	Rate of Fare							Index Numbers					
	July, 1914	Nov., 1925	Dec., 1925	June, 1926	Dec., 1926	June, 1927	Dec., 1927	Nov., 1925	Dec., 1925	June, 1926	Dec., 1926	June, 1927	Dec., 1927
Kalamazoo, Mich.	.042	.063	.063	.063	.063	.063	.083	150	150	150	150	150	198
Kansas City, Kan.	.050	.070	.070	.070	.070	.067	.067	140	140	140	140	134	134
Kansas City, Mo.	.050	.070	.070	.070	.070	.067	.067	140	140	140	140	134	134
Kearney, N. J.	.050	.050	.050	.050	.050	.050	.050	100	100	100	100	100	100
Kenosha, Wis.	.050	.063	.063	.063	.063	.063	.058	126	126	126	126	126	116
Kingston, N. Y.	.050	.080	.080	.080	.080	.080	.080	160	160	160	160	160	160
Knoxville, Tenn.	.050	.060	.060	.060	.050	.060	.060	120	120	120	100	120	120
Kokomo, Ind.	.042	.050	.050	.050	.050	.050	.050	119	119	119	119	119	119
La Crosse, Wis.	.050	.056	.056	.056	.056	.063	.063	112	112	112	112	126	126
Lakewood, Ohio	.030	.030	.030	.030	.030	.030	.030	100	100	100	100	100	100
Lancaster, Pa.	.050	.060	.060	.060	.060	.063	.063	120	120	120	120	126	126
Lansing, Mich.	.050	.063	.063	.063	.063	.063	.071	126	126	126	126	126	142
Lawrence, Mass.	.050	.063	.063	.063	.067	.067	.067	126	126	126	134	134	134
Lewiston, Me.	.046	.100	.100	.100	.100	.100	.100	217	217	217	217	217	217
Lexington, Ky.	.042	.063	.063	.063	.063	.063	.075	150	150	150	150	150	179
Lima, Ohio	.042	.063	.063	.063	.063	.063	.063	150	150	150	150	150	150
Lincoln, Neb.	.042	.075	.075	.075	.075	.075	.075	179	179	179	179	179	179
Little Rock, Ark.	.050	.060	.060	.060	.060	.060	.060	120	120	120	120	120	120
Long Beach, Cal.	.050	.060	.060	.060	.060	.060	.060	120	120	120	120	120	120
Lorain, Ohio	.042	.050	.050	.050	.050	.050	.050	119	119	119	119	119	119
Los Angeles, Cal.	.050	.057[f]	.057[f]	.057[f]	.057[f]	.057[f]	.057[f]	114	114	114	114	114	114
Louisville, Ky.	.050	.060	.060	.070	.070	.070	.070	120	120	140	140	140	140
Lowell, Mass.	.050	.063	.067	.067	.071	.071	.071	126	134	134	142	142	142
Lynchburg, Va.	.042	.050	.050	.050	.050	.050	.050	119	119	119	119	119	119
Lynn, Mass.	.050	.056	.056	.056	.059	.059	.059	112	112	112	118	118	118

Macon, Ga.	.050	.067	.067	.067	.067	.067	.067	134	134	134	134	134	134
Madison, Wis.	.050	.059	.059	.059	.059	.059	.059	118	118	118	118	118	118
Malden, Mass.	.050	.050	.050	.050	.050	.060	.063	100	100	100	100	120	126
Manchester, N. H.	.050	.075	.075	.075	.075	.075	.075	150	150	150	150	150	150
Mansfield, Ohio	.050	.080	.080	.080	.080	.080	.080	160	160	160	160	160	160
Marion, Ohio	.050	.050	.050	.050	.050	.050	.050	100	100	100	100	100	100
McKeesport, Pa.	.030	.063	.063	.063	.063	.063	.063	210	210	210	210	210	210
Medford, Mass.	.050	.100	.100	.100	.100	.060	.063	200	200	200	200	120	126
Memphis, Tenn.	.045	.070	.070	.070	.070	.070	.070	156	156	156	156	156	156
Meriden, Conn.	.050	.083	.083	.083	.083	.083	.083	166	166	166	166	166	166
Miami, Fla.	.050	.050	.050	.050	.050	.050	.050	100	100	100	100	100	100
Milwaukee, Wis.	.042	.063	.063	.063	.063	.063	.063	150	150	150	150	150	150
Minneapolis, Minn.	.050	.060	.060	.067	.067	.067	.067	120	120	134	134	134	134
Mobile, Ala.	.050	.070	.070	.070	.070	.070	.075	140	140	140	140	140	150
Moline, Ill.	.050	.071	.071	.071	.071	.067	.083	142	142	142	142	134	166
Montclair, N. J.	.050	.050	.050	.050	.050	.050	.050	100	100	100	100	100	100
Montgomery, Ala.	.050	.063	.063	.063	.063	.063	.063	126	126	126	126	126	126
Mount Vernon, N. Y.	.050	.050	.050	.050	.050	.050	.050	100	100	100	100	100	100
Muncie, Ind.	.042	.050	.050	.050	.050	.050	.050	119	119	119	119	119	119
Muskegon, Mich.	.040	.075	.075	.075	.075	.075	.075	188	188	188	188	188	188
Muskogee, Okla.	.050	.070	.070	.070	.070	.070	.083	140	140	140	140	140	166
Nashua, N. H.	.050	.083	.083	.083	.083	.070	.070	166	166	166	166	140	140
Nashville, Tenn.	.050	.070	.070	.070	.070	.070	.070	140	140	140	140	140	140
Newark, N. J.	.050	.050	.050	.050	.050	.050	.050	100	100	100	100	100	100
Newark, Ohio	.042	.060	.060	.060	.060	.060	.060	143	143	143	143	143	143
New Bedford, Mass.	.048	.048	.048	.048	.048	.063	.063	100	100	100	100	131	131
New Britain, Conn.	.050	.083	.083	.083	.083	.083	.083	166	166	166	166	166	166
New Brunswick, N. J.	.050	.050	.050	.050	.050	.050	.050	100	100	100	100	100	100
Newburgh, N. Y.	.050	.070	.070	.070	.070	[b]	[b]	140	140	140	140	[c]	[c]
New Castle, Pa.	.050	.063	.063	.063	.063	.063	.063	126	126	126	126	126	126
New Haven, Conn.	.050	.083	.083	.083	.083	.083	.083	166	166	166	166	166	166
New London, Conn.	.050	.083	.083	.083	.083	.083	.083	166	166	166	166	166	166
New Orleans, La.	.050	.070	.070	.070	.070	.070	.070	140	140	140	140	140	140
Newport, Ky.	.050	.050	.050	.050	.050	.050	.050	100	100	100	100	100	100
Newport, R. I.	.050	.100	.100	.100	.100	[b]	[b]	200	200	200	200	[b]	[b]

[f] In Los Angeles, the Pacific Electric, where the fare is 6 cents per zone, carries more than twice as many passengers as the Los Angeles Railway Corporation, which charges 5 cents. The latter has, therefore, been weighted one and the former two, giving an average of 5⅔ cents.

Table 19: Rates and Index Numbers of Carfare in Specified Cities, on Specified Dates, July, 1914 to December, 1927—(*Continued*)

July, 1914 = 100

(National Industrial Conference Board)

Note: This table continues figures for November and December, 1925, given in a corresponding table (H) on page 202 in "The Cost of Living in the United States, 1914–1926."

Locality	Rate of Fare							Index Numbers					
	July, 1914	Nov., 1925	Dec., 1925	June, 1926	Dec., 1926	June, 1927	Dec., 1927	Nov., 1925	Dec., 1925	June, 1926	Dec., 1926	June, 1927	Dec., 1927
Newport News, Va.	.50	.050	.050	.050	.050	.050	.050	100	100	100	100	100	100
New Rochelle, N. Y.	.050	.050	.050	.050	.050	.050	.050	100	100	100	100	100	100
Newton, Mass.	.050	.100	.100	.100	.100	.060	.063	200	200	200	200	120	126
New York, N. Y.	.050	.050[g]	.050[g]	.050[g]	.050[g]	.050[g]	.050[g]	100	100	100	100	100	100
Niagara Falls, N. Y.	.050	.050	.050	.050	.050	.050	.050	100	100	100	100	100	100
Norfolk, Va.	.050	.063	.063	.063	.088	.088	.088	126	126	126	176	176	176
Norristown, Pa.	.050	.085	.085	.085	.085	.085	.085	170	170	170	170	170	170
Norwalk, Conn.	.050	.083	.083	.083	.083	.083	.083	166	166	166	166	166	166
Norwich, Conn.	.050	.083	.083	.083	.083	.083	.083	166	166	166	166	166	166
Oakland, Cal.	.050	.060	.060	.070	.070	.070	.070	120	120	140	140	140	140
Oak Park, Ill.	.050	.100	.100	.100	.100	.100	.100	200	200	200	200	200	200
Ogden, Utah	.050	.067	.067	.067	.067	.067	.067	134	134	134	134	134	134
Oklahoma City, Okla.	.050	.075	.075	.075	.075	.075	.075	150	150	150	150	150	150
Omaha, Neb.	.050	.067	.067	.067	.067	.067	.067	134	134	134	134	134	134
Orange, N. J.	.050	.050	.050	.050	.050	.050	.050	100	100	100	100	100	100
Oshkosh, Wis.	.031	.071	.071	.071	.071	.070	.070	229	229	229	229	226	226
Pasadena, Cal.	.050	.053	.053	.053	.063	.063	.063	106	106	106	126	126	126
Passaic, N. J.	.050	.050	.050	.050	.050	.050	.050	100	100	100	100	100	100
Paterson, N. J.	.050	.050	.050	.050	.050	.050	.050	100	100	100	100	100	100
Pawtucket, R. I.	.050	.070	.070	.070	.070	.070	.070	140	140	140	140	140	140

[g] On surface lines in New York, in some instances, transfers have been abolished; on others, a charge of two cents is made for transfers where formerly they were free; on Staten Island, an 8-cent fare has superseded the original 5-cent fare on some lines. Since there is no means of weighting these charges to show the extent of the increased cost on the total number carried and it is probably small in proportion to the whole, they have been disregarded.

Pensacola, Fla.	.048	.075	.075	.075	.075	.075	.075	156	156	156	156	156	156
Peoria, Ill.	.042	.071	.071	.071	.071	.071	.071	169	169	169	169	169	169
Perth Amboy, N. J.	.050	.050	.050	.050	.050	.050	.050	100	100	100	100	100	100
Petersburg, Va.	.050	.050	.050	.050	.050	.063	.063	100	100	100	100	126	126
Philadelphia, Pa.	.050	.075	.075	.075	.075	.075	.075	150	150	150	150	150	150
Phoenix, Ariz.	.048	.063	.063	.063	.063	.050	.050	131	131	131	131	104	104
Pittsburgh, Pa.	.050	.083	.083	.083	.083	.083	.083	166	166	166	166	166	166
Pittsfield, Mass.	.050	.060	.060	.060	.060	.060	.060	120	120	120	120	120	120
Plainfield, N. J.	.050	.050	.050	.050	.050	.050	.050	100	100	100	100	100	100
Pontiac, Mich.	.050	.056	.056	.056	.056	.059	.059	112	112	112	112	118	118
Port Huron, Mich.	.050	.056	.056	.056	.056	.059	.059	112	112	112	112	118	118
Portland, Me.	.050	.080	.080	.080	.080	.080	.080	160	160	160	160	160	160
Portland, Ore.	.045	.073	.073	.073	.073	.075	.075	162	162	162	162	167	167
Portsmouth, Ohio.	.036	.036	.036	.036	.036	.067	.067	100	100	100	100	186	186
Portsmouth, Va.	.050	.060	.060	.060	.063	.063	.063	120	120	120	126	126	126
Poughkeepsie, N. Y.	.050	.092	.092	.092	.092	.083	.083	184	184	184	184	166	166
Providence, R. I.	.050	.070	.070	.070	.070	.070	.070	140	140	140	140	140	140
Pueblo, Col.	.046	.060	.060	.067	.067	.067	.067	130	130	146	146	146	146
Quincy, Ill.	.042	.063	.063	.063	.063	.063	.063	150	150	150	150	150	150
Quincy, Mass.	.050	.067	.067	.067	.071	.071	.071	134	134	134	142	142	142
Racine, Wis.	.050	.058	.058	.058	.058	.058	.058	116	116	116	116	116	116
Reading, Pa.	.050	.070	.070	.070	.070	.070	.070	140	140	140	140	140	140
Revere, Mass.	.050	.071	.071	.071	.071	.071	.071	142	142	142	142	142	142
Richmond, Ind.	.042	.050	.050	.050	.050	.050	.050	119	119	119	119	119	119
Richmond, Va.	.042	.060	.060	.060	.060	.070	.070	143	143	143	143	167	167
Roanoke, Va.	.040	.050	.050	.050	.050	.050	.050	125	125	125	125	125	125
Rochester, N. Y.	.050	.065	.065	.075	.075	.075	.083	130	130	150	150	150	166
Rockford, Ill.	.050	.063	.063	.063	.063	.063	.063	126	126	126	126	126	126
Rock Island, Ill.	.050	.083	.083	.083	.083	.083	.083	166	166	166	166	166	166
Rome, N. Y.	.050	.070	.070	.070	.070	.083	.083	140	140	140	140	166	166
Sacramento, Cal.	.050	.050	.050	.050	.050	.050	.050	100	100	100	100	100	100
Saginaw, Mich.	.042	.083	.083	.083	.083	.083	.083	198	198	198	198	198	198
St. Joseph, Mo.	.042	.067	.067	.067	.067	.067	.067	160	160	160	160	160	160
St. Louis, Mo.	.050	.070	.070	.070	.070	.075	.075	140	140	140	140	150	150
St. Paul, Minn.	.050	.060	.060	.067	.067	.067	.067	120	120	134	134	134	341

Table 19: Rates and Index Numbers of Carfare in Specified Cities, on Specified Dates, July, 1914 to December, 1927—(*Concluded*)

July, 1914 = 100

(National Industrial Conference Board)

Note: This table continues figures for November and December, 1925, given in a corresponding table (H) on page 202 in "The Cost of Living in the United States, 1914–1926."

Locality	Rate of Fare							Index Numbers					
	July, 1914	Nov., 1925	Dec., 1925	June, 1926	Dec., 1926	June, 1927	Dec., 1927	Nov., 1925	Dec., 1925	June, 1926	Dec., 1926	June, 1927	Dec., 1927
Salem, Mass.	.050	.063	.063	.063	.067	.067	.067	126	126	126	134	134	134
Salt Lake City, Utah	.050	.063	.063	.077	.077	.077	.077	126	126	154	154	154	154
San Antonio, Texas	.050	.060	.060	.060	.060	.060	.083	120	120	120	120	120	166
San Diego, Cal.	.050	.075	.075	.075	.075	.050	.050	150	150	150	150	100	100
San Francisco, Cal.	.050	.050	.050	.050	.050	.050	.050	100	100	100	100	100	100
San Jose, Cal.	.050	.060	.060	.060	.060	.060	.060	120	120	120	120	120	120
Savannah, Ga.	.048	.067	.067	.067	.067	.067	.067	140	140	140	140	140	140
Schenectady, N. Y.	.050	.070	.070	.070	.070	.070	.070	140	140	140	140	140	140
Scranton, Pa.	.050	.075	.075	.075	.075	.075	.075	150	150	150	150	150	150
Seattle, Wash.	.050	.083	.083	.083	.083	.083	.083	166	166	166	166	166	166
Sheboygan, Wis.	.042	.071	.071	.071	.071	.070	.070	169	169	169	169	167	167
Shreveport, La.	.050	.059	.059	.059	.070	.070	.070	118	118	118	140	140	140
Sioux City, Ia.	.050	.063	.063	.063	.063	.075	.075	126	126	126	126	150	150
Sioux Falls, S. D.	.050	.059	.059	.067	.067	.067	.067	118	118	134	134	134	134
Somerville, Mass.	.050	.100	.100	.100	.100	.100	.100	200	200	200	200	200	200
South Bend, Ind.	.050	.063	.063	.063	.063	.063	.063	126	126	126	126	126	126
Spokane, Wash.	.045	.060	.060	.070	.070	.070	.070	133	133	156	156	156	156
Springfield, Ill.	.042	.063	.063	.063	.063	.063	.063	150	150	150	150	150	150
Springfield, Mass.	.050	.083	.083	.083	.083	.083	.083	166	166	166	166	166	166
Springfield, Mo.	.042	.063	.063	.063	.063	.063	.063	150	150	150	150	150	150
Springfield, Ohio.	.040	.063	.063	.063	.063	.063	.063	158	158	158	158	158	158
Stamford, Conn.	.050	.083	.083	.083	.083	.083	.083	166	166	166	166	166	166
Steubenville, Ohio.	.042	.050	.050	.050	.050	.050	.050	119	119	119	119	119	119
Stockton, Cal.	.050	.060	.060	.060	.060	.060	.060	120	120	120	120	120	120
Superior, Wis.	.042	.060	.060	.060	.060	.060	.070	143	143	143	143	143	167

Syracuse, N. Y.	.050	.070	.070	.070	.070	.075	.075	140	140	140	140	150	150
Tacoma, Wash.	.050	.080	.080	.080	.080	.050	.050	160	160	160	160	100	100
Tampa, Fla.	.050	.050	.050	.050	.050	.050	.050	100	100	100	100	100	100
Taunton, Mass.	.050	.071	.071	.071	.077	.077	.077	142	142	142	154	154	154
Terre Haute, Ind.	.042	.050	.050	.050	.050	.050	.050	119	119	119	119	119	119
Toledo, Ohio	.042	.083	.083	.083	.083	.083	.083	198	198	198	198	198	198
Topeka, Kan.	.050	.063	.063	.063	.063	.063	.063	126	126	126	126	126	126
Trenton, N. J.	.050	.080	.080	.080	.080	.080	.080	160	160	160	160	160	160
Troy, N. Y.	.050	.070	.070	.070	.070	.077	.077	140	140	140	140	154	154
Tulsa, Okla.	.050	.063	.063	.063	.063	.063	.075	126	126	126	126	126	150
Utica, N. Y.	.050	.070	.070	.075	.075	.075	.075	140	140	150	150	150	150
Waco, Texas	.050	.063	.063	.063	.063	.063	.063	126	126	126	126	126	126
Waltham, Mass.	.060	.100	.100	.100	.100	.100	.100	167	167	167	167	167	167
Warren, Ohio	.050	.083	.083	.083	.083	.083	.083	166	166	166	166	166	166
Washington, D. C.	.042	.067	.067	.067	.067	.067	.067	160	160	160	160	160	160
Waterbury, Conn.	.050	.083	.083	.083	.083	.083	.083	166	166	166	166	166	166
Waterloo, Ia.	.042	.075	.075	.075	.075	.075	.075	179	179	179	179	179	179
Watertown, N. Y.	.040	.063	.063	.063	.063	.071	.071	158	158	158	158	178	178
West Hoboken, N. J.	.050	.050	.050	.050	.050	.050	.050	100	100	100	100	100	100
West New York, N. J.	.050	.050	.050	.050	.050	.050	.050	100	100	100	100	100	100
Wheeling, W. Va.	.042	.050	.050	.050	.050	.050	.050	119	119	119	119	119	119
Wichita, Kan.	.042	.056	.056	.056	.056	.056	.056	133	133	133	133	133	133
Wichita Falls, Texas	.050	.055	.055	.055	.055	.055	.055	110	110	110	110	110	110
Wilkes-Barre, Pa.	.050	.075	.075	.075	.075	.075	.075	150	150	150	150	150	150
Williamsport, Pa.	.042	.050	.050	.050	.050	.075	.075	119	119	119	119	179	179
Wilmington, Del.	.050	.075	.075	.075	.075	.075	.075	150	150	150	150	150	150
Wilmington, N. C.	.042	.075	.075	.075	.075	.075	.075	179	179	179	179	179	179
Winston-Salem, N. C.	.046	.063	.063	.063	.063	.063	.063	137	137	137	137	137	137
Woonsocket, R. I.	.050	.070	.070	.070	.070	.070	.070	140	140	140	140	140	140
Worcester, Mass.	.050	.100	.100	.100	.100	.100	.100	200	200	200	200	200	200
Yonkers, N. Y.	.050	.050	.050	.050	.050	.050	.050	100	100	100	100	100	100
York, Pa.	.042	.063	.063	.063	.063	.063	.063	150	150	150	150	150	150
Youngstown, Ohio	.040	.071	.071	.071	.071	.071	.071	178	178	178	178	178	178
Zanesville, Ohio	.050	.056	.056	.056	.063	.063	.063	112	112	112	126	126	126
United States	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	142	142	143	145	146	147

would seem to be logically in order in these concluding pages. But logic must sometimes give way to the exigencies of presentation. It seemed better from the standpoint of exposition to regard the total cost of living index as something to be analyzed, and it was accordingly placed at the beginning of this chapter. Even though the construction of an index number is a synthesis, the explanation of its make-up and its significance is treated most conveniently as an analysis. Indirectly, the total cost of living finds expression in the purchasing value of the dollar and this aspect of the matter will serve as a summary of the general results of the inquiry.

Purchasing Value of the Dollar

There is another aspect from which changes in the price of the goods and services which enter into the cost of living can be considered, namely, with reference to the purchasing value of the money with which those goods and services are bought. Price expresses commodities in terms of dollars; the purchasing value of the dollar expresses dollars in terms of commodities. If prices rise, the quantity of goods which can be purchased with one dollar diminishes and the purchasing value of the dollar falls. In like manner, should prices fall, the purchasing value of the dollar would rise. The purchasing value of the dollar in terms of the cost of living is obtained very simply by dividing one hundred cents by the index of the cost of living. The result shows how, for the purchase of the goods and services which enter into the cost of living, the dollar at any given time compares with the dollar in July, 1914.

Obviously, the movement of the purchasing value of a dollar will be the reverse of that of prices. Accordingly it is seen from Table 20 that, when the cost of living reached its highest point in 1920, the purchasing value of a dollar fell below fifty cents. When prices reached their lowest point in March, 1922, the purchasing value of the dollar rose to nearly sixty-five cents. Since that time the minor movements in prices to which attention has been called are reflected in contrary movements of the purchasing value of the dollar. For all of the dates at which the cost of living

has been ascertained by the National Industrial Conference Board by means of a comprehensive investigation, Table 20 gives the corresponding purchasing value of the dollar.

TABLE 20: PURCHASING VALUE OF A DOLLAR BASED ON INCREASES IN THE COST OF LIVING ON SPECIFIED DATES, JULY, 1914 TO DECEMBER, 1927

(National Industrial Conference Board)

Date	Value of Dollar	Date	Value of Dollar	Date	Value of Dollar
July, 1914	$1.00	March, 1923	$.628	August, 1926	$.604
July, 1915	.995	July, 1923	.618	September, 1926	.600
July, 1916	.920	November, 1923	.604	October, 1926	.598
July, 1917	.762	March, 1924	.614	November, 1926	.594
June, 1918	.657	July, 1924	.618	December, 1926	.594
November, 1918	.606	November, 1924	.605	January, 1927	.599
March, 1919	.623	March, 1925	.605	February, 1927	.605
July, 1919	.581	July, 1925	.593	March, 1927	.609
November, 1919	.549	November, 1925	.584[a]	April, 1927	.611
March, 1920	.513	December, 1925	.583[a]	May, 1927	.611
July, 1920	.489	January, 1926	.587[a]	June, 1927	.607
November, 1920	.518	February, 1926	.590[a]	July, 1927	.617
March, 1921	.593	March, 1926	.593	August, 1927	.617
July, 1921	.613	April, 1926	.593	September, 1927	.614
November, 1921	.613	May, 1926	.595	October, 1927	.611
March, 1922	.646	June, 1926	.597	November, 1927	.609
July, 1922	.643	July, 1926	.602	December, 1927	.611
November, 1922	.631				

[a] These figures include an estimate for fuel cost changes based on prices of anthracite substitutes.

The Cost of Living and Family Consumption

The changes in the cost of living which occurred in the period of 1914 to 1920 were not without a profound influence upon the family life. The necessity of paying the higher prices which the times required involved in many cases a complete upset of accustomed relations. Nowhere was this more striking than in cases in which a family was without accumulated resources and dependent entirely upon a fixed money income. So much had the purchasing value of such an income diminished that they were obliged in effect to curtail expenditures and adopt a lower standard of living. As pointed out in Chapter I, the adjustment of outlays to a smaller income means not only lessened purchases in certain directions but a redistribution of the major groups of expenditures in their relation to the total. The pinch of

lessened income reckoned in goods and services was keenly felt.

Where, however, the main reliance was upon a fixed money income, but reserves were present in the form of investments and savings, such reserves could be drawn upon to fill the widening gap between money income and the cost of the accustomed manner of living. However, the cases of families relying entirely for their support upon the income from investments appear to be comparatively rare. The indications of the statistics of income are to the effect that personal service and business effort are prominent sources of income among the wealthy and are, of course, the mainstay among persons of more modest incomes.

For the latter, a rising cost o living may be rendered innocuous by a corresponding increase of income. For the industrial wage earner whose cost of living has been under consideration such has been the happy consummation. It is true that the increase of money wages lagged behind the increase of prices before 1919, but after that date it shot ahead of the cost of living. When prices slumped after 1920, there was only a temporary and slight decrease in money wages followed by a subsequent recovery. The real income of the wage earner has in the most recent years been about one-third higher than in 1914. This means, of course, that despite the increase of the cost of living, which has been demonstrated, the industrial wage earner has improved his position and enjoys today a higher standard of living than formerly. There is, of course, no generalization which is not subject to qualification in individual cases. Wage earners in some pursuits may not have participated in the general advance in wages. In other occupations, the advance in compensation may not have been commensurate with the advance in prices. Changed relations between income and the cost of living have in some cases led to an improvement of the standard of living, in other cases to its lowering. The province of the present volume has been to establish what changes have occurred in the cost of living, rather than to discuss the consequences of such change. It has, however, seemed desirable to point out that the entire problem of social well being is not confined to the cost of living but involves other important elements.

APPENDIX

THE MONTHLY INDEX NUMBER, 1920–1925

The process of making up the cost of living index numbers of the National Industrial Conference Board, just described in detail, relates to the comprehensive data collected three times a year, in March, July and November of each year, and in December, 1925. In addition to these numbers, from January, 1920 to October, 1925 the Board also assembled information for intermediate months on a somewhat more limited basis as regards sources of information. The index numbers computed on the basis of this information are found in Table 21. The basic budget and the method of collecting and combining current price data are identical with those for the more comprehensive surveys.

These monthly reports were started at a time when prices were changing very rapidly, and have always been considered in the nature of interim estimates indicative of tendencies rather than as definite measurements. As a matter of fact, however, experience with these monthly estimates indicates that for the budget as a whole the figures give a very fair measure of the trend in the cost of living in those months when complete reports are not available. For the separate items, the numbers have not had the same validity. Since November, 1925, the monthly calculations of the index number have been upon the comprehensive basis described in Chapter III of this volume.

Table 21: Index Numbers of the Cost of Living in the United States on Specified Dates from January, 1920 to October, 1925, by Separate Budget Items[a]

Base, July, 1914=100

(National Industrial Conference Board)

Date	All Items	Food	Housing	Clothing	Fuel and Light	Sundries
1920						
January..	192.0	201	143	270	149	177
February.	193.1	200	145	277	149	178
April.....	201.3	211	150	288	151	183
May.....	203.3	215	151	287	155	183
June.....	204.3	219	151	276	161	185
August...	198.0	207	158	255	169	185
September	197.6	203	159	255	178	188
October..	195.2	198	159	248	183	190
December	183.5	178	166	205	200	192
1921						
January..	178.6	172	166	187	200	192
February.	170.3	158	166	174	198	190
April.....	165.9	152	171	169	179	185
May.....	162.6	145	171	168	178	185
June.....	161.4	144	171	162	178	185
August...	165.1	155	169	159	179	183
September	163.9	153	169	157	179	183
October..	163.7	153	169	160	179	180
December	161.6	150	169	157	179	178
1922						
January..	158.0	142	169	156	178	178
February.	157.7	142	169	156	177	177
April.....	154.8	139	165	155	174	174
May.....	154.9	139	165	156	174	174
June.....	155.4	141	165	153	174	174
August...	154.5	139	165	153	181	172
September	155.6	140	165	155	187	172
October..	157.1	143	165	157	187	172
December	158.9	147	167	156	187	171
1923						
January..	158.1	144	167	160	187	171
February.	157.5	142	167	162	187	171
April.....	159.1	143	170	167	180	173
May.....	160.3	143	172	174	178	173
June.....	160.1	144	172	169	178	173
August...	161.6	146	175	171	176	173
September	163.4	149	175	175	176	173
October..	164.1	150	175	176	178	173
December	165.0	150	180	175	176	174
1924						
January..	164.6	149	180	176	175	174
February.	163.9	147	180	177	175	174
April.....	161.8	141	185	177	168	174
May.....	161.4	141	185	176	165	174
June.....	161.7	142	185	174	165	174
August...	162.8	144	186	176	166	173
September	163.7	147	185	174	166	173
October..	165.0	149	185	177	167	173
December	166.1	152	184	173	169	175
1925						
January..	167.1	154	184	174	169	175
February.	165.3	151	183	172	169	175
April.....	164.8	151	182	171	165	175
May.....	165.3	152	182	172	163	175
June.....	166.9	155	182	174	164	175
August...	168.7	160	179	175	166	175
September	168.2	159	178	176	168	174
October..	169.7	162	178	176	170	174

[a] The index numbers for the total cost of living from January, 1920 through February, 1922 are different from the series published prior to 1925 in that the food price figure for the fifteenth of the current month has been substituted for the figure for the fifteenth of the preceding month, used in the original series. Beginning in April, 1922, the retail food price figure has always been for the fifteenth of the current month.

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